

# Remembrance

## VIRGINIA ANNE JOHNSON

DECEMBER 8, 1928 –  
MARCH 14, 2021

Virginia Anne Johnson, the daughter of Joseph Franklin and Clara Lillian (Ohms) Petersen, was born on December 8, 1928, in Harlan, Iowa. She graduated as Valedictorian of the Harlan High School Class of 1946, and then attended Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, for one year.



On June 22, 1947, Virginia married Richard Henry “Fritz” Johnson at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Iowa. The couple moved to Oakland, Iowa, in 1955, where she worked in clothing sales and was active in the Oakland United Methodist Church. In 1977, Fritz and Virginia moved to Jackson Township in Shelby County, Iowa. Following Fritz’s death on January 6, 2000, Virginia stayed on the farm for another two years. In 2002, she moved into Harlan, and in 2014, became a resident of the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan.

Virginia was an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Iowa, where she had served as a Sunday School teacher and took part in the various activities of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women. She was active in 4-H while growing up, and later was a 4-H Leader and Cub Scout Den Mother. Virginia enjoyed quilting with the church women. She and Fritz also liked to spend time tending their vegetable and flower gardens.

Virginia A. Johnson died on Sunday, March 14, 2021, at the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, Iowa. She had reached the age of 92 years, 3 months, and 6 days.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard Henry “Fritz” Johnson; and an infant granddaughter, Angela Whitsitt. She is survived by one son, Frank Johnson of Plant City, Florida; two daughters, Ellen (Dr. Kevan) Whitsitt of Columbia, Missouri, and Catherine (William) Neumann of West Des Moines, Iowa; four grandchildren, Julie Whitsitt of Columbia, Missouri, Collin (Bo) Whitsitt of Overland Park, Kansas, Alex (Liz) Neumann of Madison, Alabama, and Peter Neumann of Boston, Massachusetts; five great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was held on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at the Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in Harlan, Iowa, with Pastor Ron Rasmussen of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Iowa, officiating. Peggy Doonan and Pastor Ron Rasmussen served as musicians. Casket bearers were Collin Whitsitt, Bill Neumann, Paul Petersen, Alex Neumann, Andy Petersen, and Peter Neumann. Burial was in the Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Iowa. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home, Inc., of Harlan, Iowa, was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be left at [www.burmeisterjohannsen.com](http://www.burmeisterjohannsen.com).

**BURMEISTER~  
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FUNERAL HOME

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