

# Obituaries & Memorials



## BRIAN EMIL JOHNSON

Brian Emil Johnson passed away quietly in his sleep at home on December 8, 2022. He was born September 7, 1955 in Two Harbors, to John Henry and Hazel (Jackson) Johnson, and grew up in Brimson, where he attended Bassett Elementary School, then graduated from Two Harbors High School in 1974.



Growing up in Brimson, the great outdoors was Brian's playground. He learned to fish and hunt, which he enjoyed much of his life. He also spent countless hours in the garage with his father working on engines, tractors, and cars. This experience led him on his career path. While in high school his favorite classes were the Industrial Arts classes, both woodworking and mechanical. He built a gun cabinet and a cedar strip canoe. During a two-week Christmas vacation, Brian and friends Ron Juenemann and Ricky Johnson, with some help from principal Gordon Klein built a one-room log cabin on Long Lake, where they hosted Christmas Eve dinner for family members. During his senior year, the class built "The Joker" - a vehicle built from parts that were begged and borrowed, and services donated by various businesses.

After high school, Brian moved to Bab-bitt, working as a mechanic's apprentice for several years. After the mine shut down, he moved to Colorado and was employed by Wilf's European Motors, a company special-

izing in the restoration of old domestic and imported cars. While there, he participated in the "Great American Race". The three man team drove a 1937 Nash Lafayette 400 Coupe, which had been completely gutted and restored. The race began in Anaheim, and ended 2800 miles later in Indianapolis. He also worked as a heavy equipment operator on road construction in the Denver area. Returning to Minnesota in the mid 90's, he was employed at North Shore Manufacturing until his retirement.

Brian had a heart of gold, believed the best in people, and did whatever he could to help others. He spent the last few years of his life at Bayview Terrace, where he was well liked by his neighbors, always had a joke to tell, and enjoyed making his neighbors feel good and putting a smile on their faces. One of his favorite ways to start a conversation was "remember when..." He will be "remembered when" for many years by his family and friends.

Brian was preceded in death by his parents, and Bobbie, the mother of his daughter.

He is survived by his daughter, Emily Rose (Ben); a sister, Cindy; a brother, Steven (Katy); aunt, Sharon (John) Dickey; nieces and nephews, Jessica, Lindsey, John Michael, Stephanie, Brandon, and Haley.

A memorial service/celebration of life is planned for the Spring 2023 in the Brimson area. To share your memories or condolences online please visit [www.cavallinfuneralhome.com](http://www.cavallinfuneralhome.com).

## JANE LOIS ANDERSON

Jane Lois (Benson) Anderson, age 98, a long-time Two Harbors resident, died on Friday, December 30, 2022 at Barross Cottage, and now is with her Lord and Savior.



Jane was born on October 31, 1924 at the hospital in Two Harbors to Peter Severn and Jennie Olaf (Johnson) Benson. She and her two siblings grew up in the family home built by her father. She attended the local elementary school and graduated from Two Harbors High School.

On the day after graduation, June 5, 1943, Jane married Wayne Anderson in Two Harbors at the Bethlehem Lutheran Parsonage with Rev. Teltie officiating. During their early married years, Jane lived in Chicago with relatives while Wayne was overseas during WWII. After the war ended, they returned to Two Harbors and raised their family in the same home that Jane grew up in. During later years, they spent over 20 years wintering in Tucson, AZ and returning to the "North Shore" for the summer/fall months. Wayne died on December 29, 2009 after 66 years of marriage to Jane.

Jane was the daughter, wife, mother and grandmother that was always at home. She was the main caregiver for her father who lived with her family for many years. She was the homemaker raising her children and the grandmother who was available to babysit. Bowling and Moose Lodge events were her activities away from home.

Cooking was a large part of Jane's life. She prepared many delicious meals with all the fixings! As her late husband would often say, "Mama is a good cook!" A favorite pastime for her was looking through magazines and cookbooks to find interesting recipes. Clippings of recipes and stacks of cookbooks were always piled high beside her easy chair.

Jane proudly shared her remarkable crocheting skills with others. Family members over the years have enjoyed the adorable movie character creations (Little Mermaid, Scarecrow from Wizard of Oz, etc.) that she was so talented in making. She also liked to play card games, win at Bingo and look for the big payout on scratch cards. However, her favorite activity was finding the "good deal" at garage sales and thrift stores. Her "bargains" kept toys on the floor for many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jane is survived by 4 children: Lynn (Steve) Marker of Edina, MN, Thomas (Evonne) Anderson of Duluth, MN, Sharon (Mark) Kettner of Two Harbors, MN, and Nancy Chose of Lake Mills, IA. She is survived by 8 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many nephews, other relatives and friends. She will be missed by many.

In addition to her husband and her parents, she was preceded in death by great-grandson Isaiah Luke Mattson and siblings Burton Benson, Florence (Benson) Lunz and Grace Benson.

The family thanks the staff at Lakeshore Ecumen - The Fountains, Barross House/Cottage, Lake View Hospital and St. Luke's Hospice Duluth for the loving care they provided Jane over the last few months.

Jane's funeral service will be at 11 AM on Monday, June 5, 2023 at First Baptist Church in Two Harbors. Interment will be at the Lakeview Cemetery. To share your memories or condolences online please visit [www.cavallinfuneralhome.com](http://www.cavallinfuneralhome.com).

## ARNOLD O. PEDERSON

We are sad to announce the passing of our dear Arnold Pederson, who joined the Norwegians in heaven on December 29 from his bed at Barross Cottage II in Two Harbors. His daughter Sandy was at his side while his wife of 68 years, Irja, was napping in the living room. He was 100.



Arne was born on August 12, 1922 on Isle Royale, Michigan, to Norwegian immigrants Bergine and Hans Pederson, the youngest of their four children. When Arne was quite young, they moved to Knife River, Minnesota, where he had a happy childhood. He attended high school in nearby Two Harbors and graduated in 1941.

A few months later, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and Arne joined the great numbers of young men, including his two brothers, who enlisted. At age 19, as a member of the Army Air Corps, he was trained to be a flight engineer on a B-17. He was stationed in the south of England to join the mission of weakening the German response to the pending invasion by dropping bombs on northern Germany. When his plane, the Worry Bird, was shot down in February, 1944, he parachuted into occupied Normandy and was Missing in Action for three months. He was lucky enough to fall into the hands of a resistance group that hid him and passed him along their network and ultimately over the Pyrenees to Spain and back to England. This was the great adventure of his life, a story he liked to tell. He remained truly grateful for those people who took such risks to help him and had a deep love of France for the rest of his life.

After the war, he returned home to Knife River and went to work on the Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railroad, a job he enjoyed until his retirement at age 60. On August 14, 1954, he married Irja Kari from Brimson, the daughter of Finnish immigrants. Within four years, they had three daughters and had settled into their cozy home in Duluth's Woodland Park neighborhood, where they would reside for 66 years. Arne was devoted to his family, a capable helper around the house, meticulous in his home and yard maintenance, a wonderful dad and all-around great guy.

He was an example of generosity, always looking for a way to help someone else. He and Irja delivered Meals on Wheels for 35 years. In the mid '70s, when Duluth became the new home of many SE Asian refugees, they spent days and months helping families resettle. He became a fixture at Concordia Lutheran Church, making repairs, painting, doing yard work and socializing with the pastor. He and Irja travelled to visit their parents' homelands and back to France to reconnect with the families who had saved him when he was 21. He took wood-carving classes and became quite skilled. Above all, he loved to talk and always had a group of friends he would meet for coffee and conversation. He liked to talk politics and was a lifelong Democrat.

In October, 2021, he and Irja moved to Barross Cottage II in Two Harbors. He was 99 and she was 97. They were warmly welcomed and became part of another family that cherished them and provided loving care every day. Our family is deeply grateful.

Greeting him in heaven are his parents, sister Lillian (Clifford) Sundstrom, brothers Ivar (Lorraine) and Harry, nieces Carlene Sertich and Diane Zimmerman and nephew Bruce (Dorie) Eskola, a long list of in-laws, extended family in Norway and a great company of friends. Grateful for his long and happy life are his wife, Irja, of Barross Cottage II; daughters Mary (Al) Behrends of St. Peter, Sandra Pederson of St. Paul and Lori Pederson of Duluth; granddaughter Kari Pederson Behrends (Matthew Kjellgren) of Redmond, WA and grandson Christian Pederson Behrends of Minneapolis; other extended family and many friends and neighbors, especially his Duluth coffee buddies, Lou and Germaine Govze and Pastor Fred Lund.

He served his family, his country, his church and his neighbors. He lived an exemplary life. We were so lucky to have him in ours.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. service on Friday, January 6, 2023 at Concordia Lutheran Church, 2501 Woodland Avenue, Duluth. Burial will be in Forest Hill Cemetery. Memorials to the church would be most welcome. To share your memories or condolences online please visit [www.cavallinfuneralhome.com](http://www.cavallinfuneralhome.com).

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