



M. Violet Johnson

December 15, 1923 - January 17, 2021

M. Violet Johnson, 97, of International Falls, MN, went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 17, 2021 at Rainy Lake Medical Center.

She is preceded in death by her husband Russell Johnson, parents Arthur and Ellen (Lofback) Pudas, stepmother Bertha Pudas, brothers Murlyn (Ruth) Pudas and David Pudas, and sister-in-law Marit Pudas.

Violet is survived by sons Thomas (Sheryl) Johnson of Plymouth, Richard (Maura) Johnson of Bemidji, Alan (Elaine) Johnson of International Falls, Scott (Judy) Johnson of Coon Rapids, Kevin (Ann) Johnson of Bemidji and daughter Becky (Kent) Borgerson of Chanhassen. She leaves behind 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Survivors also include siblings Franklin Pudas of Sioux Falls, Sharon (Phil) Rabon of Laramie, and sister-in-law Ann Pudas of Brooklyn Center.

Violet graduated from Sebeka High School and Bemidji Teacher's College with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught first grade in Cass Lake and Thief River Falls.

On June 4, 1946, she married Russell Johnson. They spent their first year together teaching school in Ray, MN. They moved to International Falls where Russell continued his education career and Violet became a homemaker, raising their six children. After Russell's retirement, they traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 1974, Violet traveled with their son, Tom, on a trip throughout nine countries in Europe. Then in 2013, Tom led Violet, her daughter Becky and her sister, Sharon on another European trip. Together, they visited Norway, Sweden and Finland, where they met many Pudas relatives.

Over the years, Violet held positions in the local PTA and Christian Women's Club. She was active in the Evangelical Covenant Church as a Sunday School teacher and Women's Bible Study leader. She also held positions in the local district and conference Covenant Women's organizations.

Violet lived victoriously, serving Jesus as her Savior. She loved life, her Lord, her family and a host of friends.

Her private homecoming service will be held at the Evangelical Covenant Church on January 24, 2021, at 1:00 pm. A livestream of the service will be made available via the Evangelical Covenant Church facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lfallscov/>

The graveside interment at Forest Hill Cemetery will be held on Monday, January 25, 2020 at 11:00 am and all family and friends are welcome to attend.

Memorials are preferred to Evangelical Covenant Church or Backus Community Center.

Events

JAN 24 **Private Funeral Service** 01:00PM
Evangelical Covenant Church
1631 First avenue East, International Falls, MN, US, 56649

JAN 25 **Interment** 11:00AM
Forest Hill Cemetery
Memorial Drive, International Falls, MN, US, 56649

Comments



“ I just tried to phone Violet, and got a signal like a busy signal but fast as though it was disconnected. So I decided to google her. I'm so sorry that I didn't call her just before Christmas like I usually did. She was the closest friend I had while we lived in Int'l Falls. We (my husband, I and our two children) moved to the Falls in 1974, and started attending the Covenant Church. When we moved away in 1985, Violet and I (she asked if I'd be her assistant) were leading a Bible study for women that ended up being quite large. It had been in place for at least two years, and she continued on alone for several more years, I was told. She picked me up when I needed a ride (we lived in Little Fork for four years, then back to the Falls) to the college. I was secretary of the church for seven years and attend school for two of those years. Quite often during our 11 years in the Falls, we'd get together for coffee. We attended Blue Water Camp retreat most years. I drove her and Mrs. Skifstad to the Cities to a church conference in 1984. We were to stay at her sons' apt. and she got the call that a tornado had gone through their area and they were at her daughter's house south of us. The boys were there, and our pastor and his wife for the night. We talked about that for a long time. There are so many memories, and I'll miss her. We've exchanged phone calls and Christmas cards each year until the last two. Another friend in Heaven to look forward to seeing again. My sympathy to the entire family. Thank you for posting such a lovely photo of Violet.

Ona Yrjanson - February 24 at 12:10 PM



“ Thanks Ona. This is Becky, Violet's daughter. I fondly remember that unexpected visit of mom's friends from the Covenant Church in 1984. My mom had so many wonderful people in her life and I am grateful that you shared your friendship with us via this post. I miss her so much, but also know that we'll be together again in Heaven.

Becky Borgerson - February 27 at 12:59 PM



“ Tom and family,
Sorry to hear of Violet's passing but know she is with all the faithful who have gone on before her. What a reunion! She was such a beautiful person inside and out and a great example and mentor to all of us. We need so many more of her to step up and lead this generation.
Blessings on all of you,
Les & Judith Eklund

Judith Eklund - January 29 at 01:01 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear this news. Mrs. Johnson was such a beautiful lady! Many prayers for her family to find peace. I am hoping that the many memories they have will help them through this sad time. She was such a helpful, positive influence and spread such kindness.

Love,
Brad and Susie Mongrain

Susie Mongrain - January 25 at 06:24 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to all of Violet's family. I remember her wonderful smile and laugh when she would visit my mother Edna Lofback Kumpula. She was always a special favorite of my mother's who would speak on her fondly often. I have always looked forward to her special Christmas letters sent to me in a card upon which there was always a cardinal, my mother's favorite bird. She clearly lived life to the fullest and brought joy to everyone around her.

Love,,
Carolyn Kumpula Cade

Carolyn Cade - January 24 at 01:59 PM



“ Violet was one of the nicest people I have ever know, and she was always so much fun to be around. Al and Elaine, and the rest of the Johnson family, please accept our condolences. She was loved and will be missed by so many people.
Mary and Pat Hogan

Mary Hogan - January 23 at 02:36 PM



“ Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of M. Violet Johnson.



January 23 at 12:03 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of M. Violet Johnson.



January 21 at 10:46 AM



“ Dear Scott, Kevin, and Johnson family,
So sorry for your loss. Your mom was always smiling and encouraging to me.

Bobbi Guillen - January 21 at 01:56 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Violets passing. I am grateful I met her at the Senior Center and when delivering meals to her home. Violet always had a bright smile and compliment whenever I saw her. What a wonderful life she experienced. Condolences and prayers to her family and loved ones.



Deb Arnold - January 20 at 02:34 PM



“ It is with a heavy heart that I learned of Violets passing. She was such a bubbly person so filled with love and joy. She was a person who loved company. I would always refer to Violet as " Ma". and she would react with that burst of laughter. Rest In Peace "Ma" and know that I will miss you. Prayers for all the Violets Family at this difficult time.

Tom Doris - January 20 at 02:16 PM



“ Please accept our sympathy. Violet was the sweetest lady with the biggest smile. She had a way of making everyone feel special.
Earl & Colleen Boyum

colleen boyum - January 20 at 11:41 AM



“ Del Bernath lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Del Bernath - January 19 at 11:50 PM



“ What a neat lady and friend, of course she was of Finnish nationality, we'd always greet one another in Finnish, then she would smile and giggle. She was super. What a great Mother you children had. Bless her memory, never will forget her. Del

Del Bernath - January 19 at 11:54 PM



“ Extending our deepest condolences and prayers to Alan, Elaine and Violet's entire family. Meeting Violet last year is a memory I will treasure forever. She truly radiated joy, kindness, and love. May she sleep in heavenly peace. With love, Eileen O'Shaughnessy-Coleman and family.

eileen o'shaughnessy-coleman - January 19 at 09:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of M. Violet Johnson.



January 19 at 09:17 PM



“ To all her children and grandchildren,
One was always uplifted to be around your Mother. I remember meeting her in 1965 when I first started teaching in International Falls! Her smile, her loving and upbeat personality and visits with her were something I will always treasure. You knew you would be laughing if you were around Violet! She touched my heart in a special way and was one my life's special people. Blessings to all who knew and loved her.
Gail Rasmussen

gail rasmussen - January 19 at 08:23 PM



“ Wendy Ginter sent a virtual gift in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Wendy Ginter - January 19 at 08:09 PM



“ My sympathy and prayers go out to the Johnson family. Violet had many good stories to tell. When I did her snow blowing she would be at the widow waving with a big smile. I will miss her not being there. She is going home to be with the Lord. Bob Dunbar

Bob Dunbar - January 19 at 05:02 PM



“ My condolences to the entire family on your mother and grandmothers passing. I have so many great memories of Violet. The Johnson home was like my second home during high school when I hung out with Rick and Tom. Violet always had an extra setting at the dinner table and was always so bubbly and welcoming. Now she will be welcomed into heaven for a just reward for her wonderful Christianity that she showed all of us.

Keith (Oscar) Sutherland - January 19 at 04:26 PM



“ To the Johnson family:
Heaven has gained an angel.
Dear sweet Violet.....always a smile, infectious one of a kind giggle, a true Christian lady who loved her Lord deeply and with all her heart.
Never a dull moment when she was around. Had the best Ole and Toivo jokes right from her Sebeka paper. And then her piano playing. Loved the way she played "In My Heart There Rings a Melody" at singing at Woodlands. The piano almost came up off the floor.
She definitely had a melody in her heart. And now her work on this earth is done. Well done thou good and faithful servant.
I love you and look forward to singing once again one day with you in heaven..
Punky

punky stadum - January 19 at 04:14 PM



“ Such a beautiful lady, and such a light. She radiated joy and Gods love to all those who knew her. Rest In Peace

Elise - January 19 at 12:45 PM



“ I got to know Violet at Sing along...she was one of my favorite ladies on the Planet. I LOVED her. I will miss you sooo much Violet. My prayers for your family...you are with Our Lord now. Peace to you.

Beth DeLack - January 19 at 12:08 PM



“ Betty Johnson lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Betty Johnson - January 19 at 11:13 AM



“ Barb And Micky Johnson lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Barb and Micky Johnson - January 19 at 10:34 AM



“ The sweetest woman whose laughter brought me much joy at Curves.

Mary Graves - January 19 at 07:51 AM



“ I loved to hear Violet's jokes and most of all her laugh! What a beautiful lady inside and out! Missy Ruelle



Melissa Ruelle - January 19 at 07:29 AM



“ Bonnie Erickson sent a virtual gift in memory of M. Violet Johnson



bonnie erickson - January 19 at 06:50 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the entire family on your loss. I have so many great memories of Violet and my many visits to their home to see Rick, Tom and all the kids, there was always room at the table for an extra mouth and it was like my second home during high school. What a great Christian that can enjoy her heavenly reward and continue to bless everyone with her spirit and smile.

Keith (Oscar) Sutherland - January 19 at 09:44 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to all privileged to love and be loved by this lovely woman. She lived an exemplary life as a child of God. May comfort and consolation be yours in the sharing of stories, memories and love.

Michelle (Shelly) Robbie

Michelle Robbie - January 19 at 11:25 AM



“ Josephine A Johnson lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Josephine A Johnson - January 18 at 08:41 PM



“ What a sweet lady Violet was and what a nice long life she had. Alan, Elaine and family you have my condolences, she will be missed.

Darlene Karsnia - January 18 at 08:35 PM



“ Jacquie Smith lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Jacquie Smith - January 18 at 08:32 PM



“ So sorry for the loss of violet! She truly was the dearest person I ever met! My condolences!!!

cheryl hansen - January 18 at 07:47 PM



“ Alan, Elaine and families,
I am so sorry for your huge loss, what a very, very special person. She had such a spark to her. Susan Congrave

Susan E. Congrave - January 18 at 07:41 PM



“ Sandra Ohlquist sent a virtual gift in memory of M. Violet Johnson



sandra ohlquist - January 18 at 07:30 PM



“ RIP Dear sweet lady I will never forget you dear Violet at bible study..To her family I am sorry for your loss and ask the Lord for comfort at this time..She was a true woman of faith and although my heart is so sad at this news I rejoice in knowing she is with the Lord God! Loved you very much sweet violet til we meet again someday in Heaven.

sandra ohlquist - January 18 at 07:32 PM



“ Kathy Hultman Ellsworth lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Kathy Hultman Ellsworth - January 18 at 06:56 PM



“ Our Dear Violet was a welcoming Friend, who enjoyed your participation with her. Whether it was Bible Study, Women of Faith or a Concert at Backus. Her smile lit up a room. She will be missed. The Heavens and Russell, celebrate her welcome.

Kathy Hultman Ellsworth - January 18 at 06:54 PM



“ Joann & Jim Dornhecker lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Joann & Jim Dornhecker - January 18 at 06:50 PM



“ Ione Boyd lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Ione Boyd - January 18 at 06:46 PM



“ Rick & Pat DeBenedet lit a candle in memory of M. Violet Johnson



Rick & Pat DeBenedet - January 18 at 06:06 PM