



Clayton Leroy Johnson

August 1, 1927 - October 2, 2016

Clayton Leroy Johnson, a loved husband, father, son, brother, and friend passed peacefully on Sunday, October 2, 2016. Clay, with his wife of 68 years, Bonnie, lived a long and full life. He was born in Omak, WA on August 1, 1927 to Andrew and Hattie (Aspen) Johnson. The family followed Andrew's nomadic employment in logging and smelter work. Moving to Troy, ID, Chelan and then finally to Wenatchee. As a young boy in Chelan, Clay had a job with the Lady of the Lake, riding his bike to deliver grocery orders for residents living up the lake. That bicycle also carried a young Senator Parlette on the handlebars.

Clay went to Wenatchee High School where he met his life partner, Bonnie Dee Edwards. They treasured their time together, often cruising his Plymouth up to Lake Chelan. As was Clay's life-long attempt to save a dollar wherever he could, he would shut the car off at the top of tunnel hill and coast as far at the bottom as possible.

Feeling more patriotic and less studious, he joined the Navy before graduating from high school, (achieving his graduate equivalent degree after leaving the Navy). Upon enlistment, he joined a pharmacy program and completed it with high marks. This led to being stationed in Boston, and assigned duties as chauffeur for a General and allowed him frequent travel to visit a cousin in Amesbury, MA.

Clay completed his service, was Honorably Discharged, and returned home to marry Bonnie and continue their lives together. Clay was employed by

Northwest Wholesale, Inc. in 1948, working for his church group mentor, Don Phipps. He worked for NWW, Inc. for 41 years, retiring as General Manager. Once married, they set up their first home in the Burke Hill Apartments and started constructing their first of 14 homes on Sunset St., south of 5th St. Every evening after work, Clay was off to continue building, walking when the old Plymouth wasn't running.

Beginning with their high school trips to the lake, a strong yearning grew to build a place on the lake. They finally achieved that goal in 1975, and treasured their time there with family and friends.

In 1983, they began annual trips to Hawaii, developing many friendships. In between these trips, they traveled throughout Europe, connecting with relatives in Sweden.

Clay was an active member of Rotary and YMCA Camp Committee, he volunteered for the Sunnyslope Fire Department and the Wenatchee Youth Circus. He helped construct the First United Methodist Church and the Larry Handy Lodge at the Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, and granddaughter, Lindsay. Clay is survived by his wife, Bonnie; sons, Doug (Cathy), Rick (Kris) and Greg (Lisa) Johnson, all of Wenatchee; brothers, Roger, East Wenatchee & Ron (Judy) Johnson, Wenatchee; four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Special Thanks from the family to Bonaventure and their caring staff and Hospice for the care of Clay.

A celebration of Clayton's life will be held at the First United Methodist church, 941 Washington St., Wenatchee at 11:00 am, Friday, October 14th. A reception will follow in the church's Social Room. Graveside service will follow at 2:00 p.m. in the Sunnyslope Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donations are suggested to the Wenatchee Valley YMCA, "Y" Camp in lieu of other remembrances. You are invited to view his online guestbook at www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com .

Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Rick, We are keeping you and your Family in our Prayers as You mourn the loss of your Father. We give praise the Heavenly Father for the Calibration of a life well lived.
Mike and Deanna Bennett

Mike Bennett - October 12, 2016 at 10:39 PM

BJ

“ Remembering Uncle Clayton - I only ever was able to see him once or twice every summer over the years. But each time, it was like I had just seen him yesterday. I don't think I ever saw him without a smile on his face. As a matter of fact, he always looked as though he had some kind of secret only he knew and wanted to share with you!

As a kid, it was so exciting to visit the house in sunnyslope and use the pool! I think it was the first pool at a house I had ever seen. He had a way of making you feel special and that you were the only person that was with him, even at family gatherings.

We had some boat trips to Stehekin - one which we somehow decided to walk back from Rainbow Falls (for some reason) which was miles and miles, but mom and dad and Bonnie and Clayton - plus my friend Steve from England all survived! I'm sure he had some funny remarks to share on the trip back.

Uncle Clayton was a special man, a favorite Uncle whom I never felt distanced from. I will miss seeing him and his personality at our gatherings and also just randomly bumping into him around town.

The last time I saw him in public, he and Bonnie were at Pybus Market sitting on a bench. I said hello, and we had a long conversation about how they enjoyed people watching, how my teaching was going (I know Bonnie was especially interested in this, being an ex teacher), and just things in general.

My thoughts go out to my cousins, Doug, Rick, Greg, and their families at this rough time, but I can only hope we'll all be meeting up with grandma and grandpa someday, eating cold fried chicken in front of the lake!

Go in peace, Clayton!

You loving nephew,

Brian

Oh my gosh, I almost forgot the poker games he would somehow get me to bet a penny on, that I would always lose!

Brian Johnson - October 10, 2016 at 10:42 PM

JM

“ *Your Dad was a light in my Mom's life. The memories they shared always brought smiles and laughter when they were together. He will be missed.* ”



Joanne and Tom Hession, Tewksbury, Mass - October 08, 2016 at 06:25 PM

LP

“ *will surely miss clayton have some great memories with him know he is at peace now* ”

lois pierce - October 08, 2016 at 01:35 AM