



Richard L. Johnson

June 12, 1934 - March 16, 2024

Richard L. Johnson, 89, of rural Bluffton died March 16, 2024, at Markle Health and Rehabilitation following a lengthy illness.

He was born on June 12, 1934, in Fort Wayne to Quincy and Madge (Randle) Johnson. Richard grew up in Huntington, spending his teens working as a farmhand at several locations in the county. It was during that time he met Phyllis Burley, whom he would marry on June 19, 1955.

Following graduation from Huntington Township High School in 1953, Richard began working at International Harvester in Fort Wayne. He retired from the company 30 years later, in 1983. Richard also held a variety of parttime jobs, including butchering at the Zanesville locker plant and working as a meat cutter at Heyerly's Market in Bluffton.

For decades Richard went on annual fishing trips, flying to secluded lakes in Canada with his good friends Bob Caley and Jerry Felts. They made their last trip in 1998. Other hobbies included cutting wood for home use, mushroom hunting, playing euchre, and cranking homemade ice cream. He was also known for telling really bad jokes.

Richard was a member of the Southwest Assembly of God in Fort Wayne, where he attended since October 1996 and served as a board member.

In addition to his parents, Richard was preceded in death by his brothers, Henry Johnson and Robert Johnson; stepmother, Grace Johnson; and step-siblings, Chester Lahr, Kenneth Lahr, and Marjorie (Lahr) Miller.

His wife survives, as do their three sons, James (Amy) Johnson of Huntington,

Thomas (Brenda Kryder) Johnson of Westfield, and Donald (Elizabeth) Johnson of Knightstown; six grandchildren: Alicia (Calvin) Sellers, Jeremy (Erin) Johnson, Peter Johnson, Mary Johnson, Carrie Johnson, and Hope Johnson; and three great-grandchildren: Marik, Emma, and Jamie Sellers. Also surviving are a step-brother, Marvin Lahr of Fort Wayne, and a half-brother, Dan (Peggy) Johnson of Huntington.

Viewing will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 21st at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. A celebration of life service will follow visitation at 1 p.m. at the funeral home, officiated by the Rev. Don Mead, a close friend of the family since the 1970s. Burial will follow at Emmanuel Cemetery, one mile north of Rockford on 500 West.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home, 308 W. Washington St., in Bluffton.

Friends can send online condolences to the Johnson family at www.thomarih.com.

Cemetery Details

Emmanuel Cemetery

2115 North 500 West
Bluffton, IN 46714

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard L. Johnson*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 21, 2024 at 10:25 AM



“ *135 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 20, 2024 at 01:49 PM



“ *Deb and Gwen McKeeman, and Cindy Coak purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Richard L. Johnson.*



Deb and Gwen McKeeman, and Cindy Coak - March 20, 2024 at 10:01 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Richard L. Johnson.*



March 20, 2024 at 09:22 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard L. Johnson.*



March 19, 2024 at 03:01 PM



“ *Peggy Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard L. Johnson.*

Peggy Johnson - March 19, 2024 at 03:01 PM



“ *We were very fortunate back in the days of our High school running, to have family like the Johnsons. They made us all feel good knowing they would be there to cheer us on. Mr. Johnson spent a lot of his time being there for us. He was a hard working man, and understood what we we were doing was tough too. We all feel the families loss, and will be keeping you and yours in our thoughts.*
Stacy

Stacy W. Schoeff - March 19, 2024 at 06:56 AM