



## Guy M. Johnson

September 18, 1924 - January 15, 2019

Traverse City - Guy Marion Johnson, 94, a lifelong resident of Old Mission Peninsula, passed away Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at his winter home of 34 years in Ft. Myers, FL. His northern and southern friends meant the world to him.

Guy was born September 18, 1924 to Lester and Stella (Smith) Johnson. He attended Mapleton School, graduating from Traverse City Central High School in 1942.

During WWII, Guy served our country well in the U.S. Army as Technical Sergeant in the Signal Corps, 8th Army Headquarters, Yokohama, Japan. He returned to the Peninsula and the love of his life, June Marie Blixt. They married December 14, 1947 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City. Guy stayed active at the farm for several years, and, in 1955, he began his career with the U. S. Postal Service, retiring in 1984. He took great pride in his well kept lawn always manicured like a golf course. He played in the Old Mission Peninsula Band on the saxophone his father bought him and joined with the high school band to march in National Cherry Festivals. He also enjoyed all season fishing on East Bay where he and June built their home. He studied the skies and bay waters intently, with family and friends alike turning to him for the weathercast.

Guy is survived by his daughter, Phyllis (Brent) Cooley of Ft. Myers, FL; a daughter-in-law, Debra (Joseph Sloan) Johnson of Williamsburg; his grandchildren, Janae Cooley, Courtney (Ben) Morin, Lyndsay (Nick) Batsakis and Andrew (Asa) Johnson. Guy is also survived by his great grandchildren, Luke, Elle and Drew Morin and Ella and Margot Batsakis; sister-in-law, Mary Johnson; and many nieces and nephews.

Guy was preceded in death by his wife June, his son Stevan, brother Walter, step-brother Fred Edgecomb, and step-sister Gladys Boucher.

A gathering for friends and family will take place, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 6-8 p.m, at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, with the service commemorating Guy's life, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Brian Conover will

officiate . Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery with Military Honors.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Peninsula Community Library-Building Fund, 2699 Island View Drive, Traverse City, MI 49686.

# Cemetery

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## Oakwood Cemetery

1325 East Eighth Street  
Traverse City, MI, 49686

# Events

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**JAN** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**22**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**JAN** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**23**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**JAN** **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

**23**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ We were so sad to hear that Guy passed away this year. Our heart goes out to his family and friends. We met Guy on one of our scenic tours on Mission Peninsula. We found an endearing and kind person that special day. It was so fun to take him to lunch at The Park Hotel with his daughter Phillis and hear the stories of The Mission Table where Guy worked as a young boy and many other memories he shared growing up on the point. He told us about the neighbor who would bring him special pies, I believe blueberry was his favorite. I told him if we were to purchase a lot or home and become his neighbor, I too would make him a pie! He smiled and said he would start checking around to find us a place! We got such a kick out of that. We lost my mom last year so we were not able to make it back up for a promised lunch at The Mission Table and for that I am sorry. I know Guy is in a very special place in Heaven with his late wife. He shared some fabulous memories on how they came to be married that I will cherish always the day that our hearts were touched by this gentle soul.....Ted and Lynne VanDeventer

Lynne VanDeventer - May 30, 2019 at 09:34 PM

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“ My friendship with Guy was one of few encounters and few words but impacting. I am an East Shore runner along with two of my friends. Many years ago we observed Guy tenderly caring for his wife through their picture window every morning when we ran. He was always serving her, usually with his apron on. Some days he would be sitting with her, other days serving her breakfast, some days tossing a ball which we assumed was physical therapy. We started to wave to this sweet couple every morning, and they waved back. It became part of our routine and theirs. We knew they were always gone in the winter. Then one spring he returned and he was in the window alone. I had to knock on his door. I don't remember if we even said words: he looked at me the way I later learned was his way....straight into my eyes and said "my June is with the Lord". We hugged and our friendship began. My friends and I continued to wave every morning, but occasionally we would stop to give Guy a hug or drop off a homemade treat for him to eat. He would always tell a brief story about his life on these short visits, which usually included June. One day I was running alone and Guy was walking alone. I had never told hm that during his time of grieving the loss of June, I was facing empty nest and divorce. That day we stood on the road and he looked so sad and I was feeling sad. He said "I am alone.". I said, "I am alone too." We locked eyes as Guy and I often did in these brief encounters, I said, "but we are never really alone." His eyes sparkled, and he said, "You are right, we are never really alone." I knew our paths were meant to cross that morning. We never talked about faith, but I felt he was a believer and I think he could feel I was as well. It was an honor to have known him and hearing about his life at his memorial confirmed he was the Man I thought him to be and more. He lived life well and I know he was welcomed into Heaven with open arms and joy

Sherry Small - January 24, 2019 at 09:51 AM



“ Thinking of you Phyllis and your family. Tribute to your father for a life well lived.

**Mary Jo Lance** - January 20, 2019 at 07:03 PM

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“ Sending prayers, hugs and safe travels. God Bless. Mike and Carol Wagner. P

**carol wagner** - January 20, 2019 at 10:19 AM

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“ As my husband Bob and I are somewhat new to East Shore, we did not have as many opportunities to know Guy as well as many of our other neighbors. I have to say though that I looked forward to seeing him on his daily walk when the weather cooperated as he always had a smile and some very nice words to share. It was obvious that through his lifetime he had made an impact on many people's lives. I did however read an article i found in the Mission Peninsula library when I attempted to research the history of our beautiful area which shared memories of his time serving our country. It made me proud to know I lived close to someone as admirable as Guy. He will be sorely missed. Teresa and Bob Danielson.

**Teresa and Bob Danielson** - January 20, 2019 at 03:45 AM

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“ Guy was our neighbor and friend on East Shore Road these past 30 years and shared countless stories of the road, bay and peninsula with us. We appreciated his knowledge and learned much from him. His commitment to June when her health needs increased was nothing short of extraordinary. His devotion to her was total. We'll miss waving to Guy and June through their front window. They were keepers of that very special place on this planet and it will always be remembered as theirs.

**Dave Murphy** - January 18, 2019 at 07:08 PM

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“ My fondest memories are of Guy weeding and pruning the bushes and trees. He was always sweeping the walks and was proud of making our building look so great. I enjoyed our lunches at his favorite restaurant where the waitresses all knew him and gave him a hug. He was loved by everyone in Whiskey Creek and will be greatly missed.

Judy Nelson

**Judy Nelson** - January 17, 2019 at 05:28 PM

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“ My earliest memory is that of being a very young kid with Guy, June, Phyllis and Steve in our back yard watching a satellite go over. Back then it was a very big deal! My next big memory was that of making that cement sea wall on the shore in front of the Johnson's home. All hands on deck for that project. Its still there and presume it will always be, given the amount of cement that went into it. Guy was always great for a conversation if you caught him working in his front yard. John Pelizzari

john pelizzari - January 17, 2019 at 07:54 AM