



Mary Louise Johnson

December 18, 1924 - January 23, 2020

TRAVERSE CITY – Mary Louise Johnson, 95, of Traverse City, passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Orchard Creek Supportive Care, where she had resided since 2016.

Mary, known as “M.L.” to her southern family, was born on December 18, 1924, in Oil City, PA, to the late James and Mary Louise (Dempsey) Bohlken.

The daughter of a civil engineer and a southern belle, Mary spent her childhood in Memphis, TN, and Arlington, Virginia, where she graduated from Washington-Lee High School in 1942.

Mary attended Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, for two years, where she met Walter Johnson, a mechanical engineering student (he was a night watchman, she worked the night switchboard). They were married at Clarendon Methodist Church in Arlington on August 21, 1946.

During this time, Mary attended Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, VA, as part of the Nurse Cadet Corps, graduating in 1947.

The city girl then moved north to the Old Mission Peninsula to become a farm wife and begin a life of devoted service to the community. She was a member of Old Mission Peninsula United Methodist Church (formerly Ogdensburg United Methodist Church), where she played the organ for more than 50 years. She was also a member of the Old Mission Women’s Club and Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society, and she served on the board of Peninsula Community Library, helping to secure the land on which the new library was recently built. A registered nurse, she was employed at Munson Medical Center in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mary’s hobbies included gardening, reading, crosswords, quilting, painting and mowing the lawn on her riding lawnmower. She loved working on the farm, picking apples, hauling cherry tanks with “her” 430 Case tractor, and managing the big strawberry field down from the barn. She loved old movies, especially musicals, and she was an avid fan of all thing’s science fiction, especially Star Trek and Babylon 5.

Mary is survived by her sons; Dean (Laura) Johnson and Ward (Carol) Johnson, daughter Jane (Tim) Boursaw, daughter-in-law Terilee Johnson, son-in-law Stephen Lewis, and grandson-in-law Cory Reamer, all of the Old Mission Peninsula. She is also survived by

seven grandchildren; Heatherlyn (Randy Stuck) Johnson, Danielle Lewis, Ryan Johnson, Shawn (Krystal) Johnson, Nicholas Johnson, Will Boursaw, and Marissa Boursaw; five great-grandchildren; Emmalyn Reamer, James Reamer, Olivia Johnson, Tre Hargrave, Landyn Hargrave, and many nieces and nephews.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Jane Wingert, her husband Walter Johnson, and her daughter Carolyn (Stephen) Lewis.

A funeral service will take place at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30 at Old Mission Peninsula United Methodist Church, with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Mary will be laid to rest next to her husband at Ogdensburg Cemetery, adjacent to the church. A luncheon will be served at the church following the service and burial.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Peninsula Community Library, 2699 Island View Road, Traverse City, MI 49686, and Old Mission Peninsula United Methodist Church, 16426 Center Road, Traverse City, MI 49686.

Many thanks to the team at Orchard Creek for taking such good care of her these past few years. She loved the Wednesday sing-alongs (and remembered all the words, despite her memory loss) with Mary Sue Wilkinson.

Cemetery

Ogdensburg Cemetery

Center Road

Traverse City, MI, 49686

Events

JAN **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

30

Old Mission Peninsula United Methodist Church
16426 Center Rd, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

JAN **Funeral Service** 12:00PM

30

Old Mission Peninsula United Methodist Church
16426 Center Rd, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 30, 2020 at 07:08 AM



“ I met Mary later in her, and my life, but over the past 20 years there have been so many seemingly small memory moments that when added together reveal the strong presence she had in so many lives. The thing I appreciated most was her directness, always saying what she meant and yet in a kind way. Her existence seemed to embody the entire history of Old Mission Peninsula itself, including it's very essence. Thus without her there will be a void of a connection to the simpler past, and while she will be missed I hope that her memories will live on forever. My condolences and wishes to her family and friends in this difficult time of transition.

Cindy Ruzak - February 08, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ Mary - the patrons, board and staff of Peninsula Community Library are forever grateful for all you have done for our rural library. You told me more than once that you wanted to live to know that we had built a library on the land you helped purchase. We did it, Mary! We did it! I know you are smiling down.

Vicki Shurly, Director PCL

Vicki Shurly - January 27, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ I'll always remember seeing Mary and her special "Virginia is for Lovers" license plate speeding down Center Road. A wonderful woman who encouraged many of us to take part in Old Mission Peninsula activities.

Ann Swaney - January 26, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ Mary was one of the most special people I've ever known Truly an angel on this earth she always had a smile and a "hi love" I loved reading Mary's College Years her words made that time come alive for me. she was a wonderful lady to work with at church. God blessed us all with her.

Margery Kroupa - January 25, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ Mary was like a second mom to me as I spent a lot of time with the Johnsons at the house or the farm growing up in Old Mission. She was always busy doing something whether she was cooking, mowing the lawn, helping with the cherry and apple harvest. She was always willing to help. Mary was very special and a kind person to whoever she met. She will be missed by all.
Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Johnson family.

Jerry & Jackie Cooper

Jerry Cooper - January 25, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“ May your memories of a life well lived bring comfort and inspiration to you all.
Nikki and Steve Sobkowski

Nikoletta Sobkowski - January 25, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ We have known Mary forever and she was just such a wonderful woman, so caring and helpful. And FUN. The family has so many good happy memories with Mary, and I know they will enjoy remembering these memories in the years to come. Mary had a very good and happy life with Walter and all the family. With love,

Becky and Terry Wells

Becky Wells - January 24, 2020 at 05:28 PM



“ Sending peace and love to Jane and her family.
Susan Odgers & Tom Mair

susan odgers - January 24, 2020 at 02:58 PM