



Yvonne C. Johnson

August 28, 1926 - May 19, 2015

Yvonne Madeline Cilliers Johnson, 88, passed away on Tuesday May 19, 2015 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan.

Yvonne was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 28, 1926, the only child of Dr. Jean Huguenot Cilliers and Leila Lenore (Winter) Cilliers. Her dentist father was an émigré of South Africa and her mother was born in Ontario, Canada. She graduated from South High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1944 and from Michigan State University in 1948.

After graduation, Yvonne taught Elementary school in Grand Rapids, and through a blind date, met Owen William Johnson. They married June 14, 1952 holding their reception in her mother's beloved rose garden.

In 1961, Yvonne and Owen moved with their three children to Traverse City. With her own kids in school, Yvonne resumed her passion for teaching working in the Nursery school at Traverse City Congregational Church. As a mother, Yvonne actively participated in her children's lives, as a Cub Scout Den Mother and a Girl Scout leader. With her husband, she belonged to numerous community organizations and was a dedicated member of Grace Episcopal Church. She was a devoted friend, maintaining close relationships with many people from childhood and college. She was like a second mother to many of her children's friends and was a devoted aunt, grandmother and great grandmother.

When her husband passed away in 1978, Yvonne gathered her abundant strength and courage and learned a new career, taking over her husband's duties as the court appointed Guardian for Grand Traverse County Probate Court. Although she retired from that position many years ago, she is still remembered fondly and with great respect by those she worked with in the court system, administrative and medical communities of this area.

Always an active and social person, Yvonne was interested in many things. She was an

avid golfer, gardener and hobbyist. She loved to sew and was an accomplished needle worker. Yvonne was an avid reader and had a passion for staying informed on news and current events. She was a progressive thinker with an open and curious mind and was always ready to learn something new.

Yvonne's greatest strength came from her family, friends, and church. She was a proud member of Grace Episcopal Church and contributed tirelessly over the years to help it grow. She had a wide circle of devoted friends that continued to grow up to her last days. But it was her family that gave her the most joy. Her eldest son, Eric William, his wife Debra (Cross), their sons Bret Owen and Ross James, Bret's wife Angela (Sonntag) and their 9-month son Owen Anthony – Yvonne's first great grandchild. Her second son, Timothy Owen, who sadly passed away in 2012 and his daughter, Riley Anne. And her youngest, her daughter Karen Lenore. She was also very close to her married family, maintaining strong relationships with her sister-in-law Holley (Johnson) Hobbs, her husband Max Hobbs, her brother-in-law Marvin Johnson and his wife Francis (Wooten) Johnson and her nephews Steven Johnson, Daniel Johnson, John Hobbs and Thomas Hobbs and their families.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City at 11am with a visitation beginning at 10am. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grace Episcopal Church Building Fund, 314 Washington St., Traverse City, MI 49684.

The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Kindly share your thoughts and memories with Yvonne's family by way of her online guestbook at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>

Comments



“ My sincere sympathy to the family

I knew and worked with Owen back in Grand Rapids at Old Kent Bank and when I moved up here, I again worked with Owen and got to know Yvonne.

When Owen died, Yvonne took over the Public Guardian role and I found myself working with her through my employment at NBT. I so admired Yvonne when she stepped in and did just an outstanding job with such outstanding empathy and grace.

Yvonne was "one Classy Lady" and she will be greatly missed !!

Jeanne Carboneau
Traverse City MI

Jeanne Carboneau - May 25, 2015 at 06:35 AM



“ Thank you everyone for your thoughtful words and kind giving of flowers.

Eric, Deb and Karen

Deb - May 24, 2015 at 06:36 AM



“ Eric, Deb and family, thoughts are with you.
Tom and Patty Richardson

tom richardson - May 21, 2015 at 10:22 AM



“ Like Mary Bursian, I was one of those Milliken Court kids (and there were many of us) that interacted on a daily basis; I remember Mrs. Johnson as being one of those neighborhood moms that worked very hard at keeping all of us in line at some degree--maybe like trying to herd cats. I was fortunate to deal with her on a professional basis after I became a lawyer and she was the public guardian for the Grand Traverse County Probate Court.

David Kipley - May 20, 2015 at 09:13 PM



“ Karen - so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She looks like she was a lovely lady. Hugs.

Sam Bonter - May 20, 2015 at 08:29 PM



“ I am so so sorry to hear of Yvonne's passing. She was a dear, kind woman, and wonderful next-door mom when we all lived on Milliken Court. My sincere sympathy to all.

Mary Bursian Tuttle

mary tuttle - May 20, 2015 at 07:39 AM