



Ben E. Johnson

November 12, 1935 - August 3, 2017

Ben E. Johnson, 81, passed away August 3, 2017 at his home in Carthage. Ben was born November 12, 1935 in Carthage to Elza Johnson and Mayetta “Judd” Johnson. He was a lifetime resident, graduated from Carthage High School Class of 1953, and worked at Eagle Picher for 32 years. After his retirement, he was appointed County Commissioner by Governor Mel Carnahan and worked for O’Reilly Automotive.

During Ben’s lifetime, he was very active in his community. He was a member of Rotary, Kiwanis and M.A.K.O. Fly Fishers Club. Ben was a CASA volunteer, a foster parent for 15 years, served on the Carthage City Council 5th Ward, Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Carthage, liaison to the Powers Museum, the Board of Carthage Public Works, and the Civil War Museum Board. Ben was also instrumental in helping with the Civil War re-enactments and area pow-wows.

Ben was united in marriage to Karen Couch on April 2, 1961 in Maple Grove; she survives.

Ben is also survived by three sons: Christopher Johnson and Matthew Johnson of Carthage, and Roger Johnson of Joplin, one daughter Melissa Daugherty of Carthage, one brother Thomas Johnson of Americus, Georgia, one sister Alice Hertli of New Harmony, Indiana, 11 grandchildren: Jayme,

Wesley, Karrin, Courtney, Afton, Andrew, Kevin, Ashley, Travis, Lakota and Sierra, and several great grandchildren.

Ben is preceded in death by his parents and one brother Richard Johnson.

Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 12, 2017 at Ulmer Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday, August 11, 2017 also at Ulmer Funeral Home.

Contributions may be made to Kiwanis Kiddieland or Meals On Wheels, in care of Ulmer Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the direction of Ulmer Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Park Cemetery

801 South Baker
Carthage, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ulmer Funeral Home
1208 S. Garrison
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-2222
ulmerfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ulmerfh.com/>

Service

AUG 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

Ulmer Funeral Home
1208 S. Garrison
Carthage, MO 64836
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Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Papa ben we all miss you and love you deeply. you were an amazing husband, father and gradfather. im glad that i was able to call you my papa ben. your one in a million papa ben.* ”



courtney white - August 12, 2017 at 05:32 AM

CF

“ *Cathy Fuller purchased the Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet for the family of Ben E. Johnson.* ”



Cathy Fuller - August 11, 2017 at 03:28 PM

 Lana Royer

“ *Melissa, You are in our thoughts and prayers. You were loved deeply by your daddy. Your one day reunion will be amazing in the presence of Jesus. Love you my friend.* ”



Lana Royer - August 10, 2017 at 10:52 PM



“ *There are very few people in the world who make such an impact on the world around them while at the same time being respected, admired and loved. Such a gentle, kind, giving and forgiving man. He and my wonderful Aunt Karen were so perfect together. I love you Aunt Karen. My thoughts and prayers are with you and Chris, Missy, Matt and Roger.*

Bennye Gill - August 10, 2017 at 10:48 PM



“ *Bennye Gill lit a candle in memory of Ben E. Johnson*



Bennye Gill - August 10, 2017 at 10:30 PM



“ *Richard And Alice Swindle lit a candle in memory of Ben E. Johnson*



Richard and Alice Swindle - August 10, 2017 at 11:43 AM



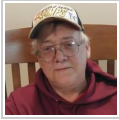
“ *We, the Gaines', will truly miss Ben. He inspired so many. His creativity and intelligence led him down so many paths. To all his family, we wish you peace. And so Goodbye Ben.*

Lanna Gaines - August 07, 2017 at 08:48 PM



My closest friend and an inspiration for over 50 years, Truly an exceptional person on so many levels.

Robert Gaines - August 10, 2017 at 11:00 AM



Most of my memories of my Uncle Ben were from my childhood. I remember how gigantic he looked to me and I how quiet he was.

But what I remember most is that he could say more with just a look than anyone I've met since.

When you angered him he looked puzzled at how you could have done such a thing.

But mostly he could smile with his eyes, He looked amused at most of what we said or did. Still puzzled but always twinkling.

Later, I learned what a great man he was and a truly brilliant and inquisitive thinker. I cheated myself by not knowing more.

I'll miss you Ben and my sincere condolences to the Johnson/Couch family.

Jackie Couch - August 13, 2017 at 06:21 PM

BB

“ *Betty and Roy beck purchased the Kosher Tower of Treats for the family of Ben E. Johnson.*



Betty and Roy beck - August 07, 2017 at 08:34 PM

TJ

“ The thing most central to my brother's life was his family. He loved them all dearly, and was loved deeply in return. They were as bonded as any family I have ever known, and it was a joy to witness. As cruel as Alzheimer's is, in a strange way it became one of the family's greatest testaments to this bond. The love expressed in Ben's final months was a joy to see. Bless them all.

I have many memories of my brother, but the one that stays with me always is the car he built when he was in his teens. Ben was a mechanical and electronic genius, and I was often in awe of my big brother. But that car! He called it a Crosfordly because it had the frame of a Crosley (a small imported car back in the 1950s), and a Ford engine. I'm sure he scrounged the parts from the local junk yard. Then, in an old chicken house behind our house at 1737 Grand Avenue, he built the body out of chicken wire and fiberglass. It looked like a miniature 2-seater corvette. It was gorgeous. I think they had to tear down a wall of the chicken house to get it out.

He got it licensed and drove it around town and maybe even to college. I used to sit in it when it sat in our driveway. When he went away to college and then to marriage, he stored it in a big barn at our home at 1706 River Street. Then one Summer day I was told to burn some fallen limbs from the pasture. Since it was windy, I piled them up on the downwind side of the barn wall as a windbreak. Yep, the fire got out of hand and caught the barn on fire and I cried as the firemen stood and watched and explained there was nothing they could do. The barn, and the Crosfordly, burned to the ground.

When Ben was home next, I apologized profusely, but he was less concerned than I. (I think my dad gave him the barn insurance money...) But I never forgot.

To me, the sports car that looked the most like that old Crosfordly was the Triumph TR-3 (an English sports car). I bought one when I was 20 and drove it for years. When I got drafted I stored it and have moved it along with me for 50 years. I still have it. It's stored in

a barn.

Tom Johnson - August 07, 2017 at 06:23 PM