



## Lynn E. Johnson

December 20, 1933 - November 12, 2020

Lynn Johnson, 86, of Kearney passed away Thursday, November 12, 2020 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Private family memorial services will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, November 16, 2020 at First Lutheran Church in Kearney with Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson and Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson officiating. The service will be live streamed through the First Lutheran Church website at <https://firstlutherankearney.org/watch-live/>

The public is invited to attend a time of remembrance 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Due to concerns over Covid 19, the family will not be present but encourages anyone that would like to pay their respects to please attend.

Lynn Johnson was born December 20, 1933 in Wausa, Nebraska to Albin and Ethel (Lingren) Johnson. Lynn graduated from Norfolk High School in 1953. In 1955, he graduated from Luther College in Wahoo, NE. While attending Luther College he lettered in four sports. Lynn proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1955 where he was mainly stationed in Germany, until his honorable discharge in 1957. He then attended Midland University where he lettered in football and basketball. Lynn graduated from Midland University in 1959. On August 13, 1961, he married Bernadene Havekost at St. John's Ridgely Church in Scribner, Nebraska. Lynn taught for Papillion Public Schools and Gretna Public Schools. He received his Masters degree in 1965 and his Doctorate degree in 1969 from the University of Nebraska. From 1969 to 1999

he taught in the College of Education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, serving the roles of classroom professor, department chair, and Associate Dean of the College of Education. He was a member of various educational groups.

Lynn served on the Midland University Board of Trustees, Kearney Area United Way Board, Kearney Public Library Advisory Board and Foundation, the Kearney Area Literacy Council, Good Samaritan Society, the Senior Volunteer Advisory Council, and the Civil Service Commission of the City of Kearney. He received the Educator of the Year Award from the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies. Lynn was also the recipient of distinguished alumni awards from Luther Junior College and Midland University. He also volunteered at Good Samaritan Hospital, at the Great Platte River Road Archway, and for Meals on Wheels.

Lynn was a member of First Lutheran Church where he served on the Church Council and various other committees.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Bernadene Johnson of Kearney; son, David Johnson of Hastings; daughter, Stacy (Douglas) Buescher of Lincoln; grandchildren, Matthew (Sarah) Buescher of Lincoln and Sarah (Jacob) Hanus of Olathe, KS; great grandson, Isaiah Hanus of Olathe, KS; brother-in-law, Loren (Dianne) Havekost of Blair; nephew, Dan (Donell) Johnson; nieces, Stephanie (Andy) Weissinger, Lori (Mike) Quakenbush, Leigh (Aaron) Koehn and Karen (Joe) Howell all of Omaha.

Lynn was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Willard Johnson; and sister-in-law, Eloyse Johnson.

The family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, support, and prayers during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Lynn Johnson Scholarship at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, First Lutheran Church or Kearney Volunteer Fire Department. Condolences may be

shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien  
Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Time of Remembrance

NOV 15. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
info@osrfh.com  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Lynn E. Johnson

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ To Bernie and the Johnson family,

*Patti and I mourn the passing of Lynn Johnson. He was a mentor to me; he helped me to figure out UNK and the Teacher Education program. More than that, he taught me about living a life worth living. He modeled kindness, care, compassion, concern, faith, humor, positive-ness -- and most other behaviors that really matter.*  
Dennis and Patti Potthoff

Dennis Potthoff - December 01, 2020 at 07:03 PM



“ To Dr. Lynn Johnson's family--

*Dr. Johnson was my (Sandy's) student teaching supervisor in 1969 and then I worked in the Education Department until 1976. I enjoyed learning from Dr. Johnson as a student teacher and working with him during my time in the Education Department. The last time I saw him was when we visited a family member in the hospital and he was the volunteer in the Hospitality Room for families. It was great to visit with him. He was such a wonderful person. Please accept our sympathy!*  
Al & Sandy Blankenship

Sandra J Blankenship - November 22, 2020 at 02:01 PM

KS

“ *Bernie and family,*

*So sorry for your loss, and very surprised to hear of Lynn's passing! I didn't know him well, but he always had a kind word when I saw him around campus. It was such a privilege to call him a colleague, and one who influenced positively so many lives.*

*Kaye and Gary Sorensen and our family*

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**Kaye Sorensen** - November 20, 2020 at 03:11 PM

MH

“ *Bernie and family,*

*Galen and I were saddened and shocked to read of Lynn's passing, and send our condolences to each of you.*

*Lynn was Chair of the PTE Department when I came to UNK, and he became my mentor. He knew how to work with other people effectively and also enjoyed having fun, including his tradition of "raising the flag" on a Friday afternoon to signal an informal gathering of faculty and staff. What a fun way to end the week!*

*Lynn was effective in a quiet and behind-the-scenes way. I could always count on him. He was someone I felt comfortable talking with about an issue or just for fun. Galen and he loved to kid around and discuss world issues.*

*We all loved Lynn- students, faculty and staff. He was a great colleague and friend, and touched the lives of thousands. The world is a better place because of Lynn*

*In sympathy,  
Marilyn and Galen*

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**Marilyn Hadley** - November 19, 2020 at 02:53 PM

AJ

“ To the Johnson family,  
My condolences on your loss. I enjoyed my campus interactions with Lynn, he had a positive influence on my early career and across KSC/UNK. If we crossed paths at a volleyball game he always had something cute and clever to say to my daughters.  
Allan Jenkins  
Professor of Economics

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**Allan Jenkins** - November 19, 2020 at 01:59 PM

KL

“ Blessings to Bernie and the rest of the family,  
  
Lynn was a wonderful person and colleague! He always had a smile for everyone, especially the students; such a positive person. Lynn made the campus a better place for all, just by being there.  
  
Thinking of you,  
Kathy Livingston

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**Kathy Livingston** - November 19, 2020 at 01:40 PM

MI

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Lynn was such an inspiration for me as a coach and educator. He was a great man with a big heart. Prayers for you all.

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**Mary Iten** - November 19, 2020 at 12:51 PM

JW

“ So enjoyed working with Lynn at UNK. He was a passionate educator, with a terrific sense of humor. Also a neighbor, living just south of us, across 39th street on Ave. I in Kearney. I remember the two of you were there when we adopted our children in 1993 and 1996. Sending our sympathy.  
Colin and Janet Wilke (Janet- UNK Library)

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**Janet Wilke** - November 19, 2020 at 12:47 PM

JJ

“ Bernie, so sorry for your loss. Lynn was always such a pleasant person in the room. Had many good discussions with him working at UNK and serving on committees with him at church. We enjoyed many good conversations as our girls were growing up together in church, school and the neighborhood. He will be remembered and missed by so many of us. Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers to you, Stacy, David and your families.  
..... Jerry and Verlene Jacoby, Mesa, AZ

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**Jake & Verlene Jacoby** - November 16, 2020 at 11:47 PM

AB

“ Mrs. Johnson, David, and Stacy,

*We were so saddened by the passing of Dr. Johnson.*

*I will always remember the many times he picked me up and drove me to school all through Junior High, the trip with your family to Kansas City to cheer on Kearney State in the '78 NAIA Championship basketball tournament, the indoor nerf basketball tournaments in the winter time (no one could get past Dr. Johnson), and the famous “quotes” at the Buffalo Ridge Golf Course (“I should have hooked it!” – Johnny Miller, Pebble Beach” [as I sliced it into the cornfield on #6!!]).*

*The wonderful memories are many and will always be kept close.*

*We pray to the Lord to comfort you in this time.*

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**Arlen and Mary Baker** - November 16, 2020 at 11:31 PM

MH

“ We send our deepest sympathy to Bernie and family in their loss of Lynn. Tom enjoyed working with Lynn many years in the College of Education at UNK. Lynn volunteered with the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival and I always knew he would be willing to get up very early to drive our tellers to the Grand Island Schools, arriving by 8:00 a.m. Lynn was always genuinely interested in you and your family. He was a special man who will be missed by many who were privileged to know him.

*Tommy and Marlene Hansen*

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**Marlene D Hansen** - November 16, 2020 at 02:48 PM

LL

“ *Bernie and family,  
I was so sorry to hear of Dr. Johnson's passing. He was my  
Kearney State Supervisor when I was student teaching many years  
ago. He was such a kind man, who always made you feel at ease.  
You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*  
*Linda Liebig*

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**Linda Liebig** - November 16, 2020 at 02:01 PM

ML

“ *To Bernie and family. Please accept our deepest sympathies. The  
dear Lord took home one of the very best! He will be deeply missed!*

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**Mary and Jim Losey** - November 16, 2020 at 12:49 PM

SE

“ *Bernie, Dave & Stacy (and family)-*

*I am so sorry for your loss. Lynn was such a gentleman and a friend to my dad, mom, and the Elmore kids.*

*I remember talking with him at church every weekend and the other occasions when our families would get together. Your family was special to us and we had many laughs together. Bernie and Lynn were special to my mom before & after dad passed away; and I really appreciate what you two did. Twelve years ago, you were again there for all of us when my mom struggled and lost her battle with cancer. Bernie, Lynn would always come to me and ask if I needed any more help. He was always concerned and compassionate. He would take time for our young sons and ask about their Star Wars characters they were playing with at the hospital. He would also talk to them about sports, like he used to with Dave and me when we were young.*

*I know you will miss him a lot. Please take comfort in the fact that he touched so many people in a positive manner. The world is a better place because Lynn was in it.*

*Steve, Ellen, Kyle & Cael Elmore*

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**Steve Elmore** - November 16, 2020 at 11:36 AM

AB

“ *Bernie, Stacy and Dave,*

*The Baker's and Johnson's have been close family friends for many decades and our family would like to extend our sincere sympathy to all of you during this difficult time. I know Dad and Lynn spent many years working together at University of Nebraska at Kearney and built a true friendship with each other throughout their careers as educators and beyond. Dad always looked forward to having coffee with him and they worked very diligently as always solving the world's problems. I'm sure as Lynn entered the gates of heaven he was greeted by some of the past members of the coffee group and has already prepared to pick up the conversation where they'd left off.*

*May God grant you strength and peace in the days ahead.*

*Al & Jan Baker*

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**Al Baker** - November 16, 2020 at 07:53 AM

JP

*Bernie—we are so sorry to hear of Lynn's passing. I used to babysit for David and Stacy back in the day. You and Lynn were so nice and I always looked forward to staying with your kids. But more than anything, I loved how my stepdad, Gerald Baker, talked about the great times with the coffee bunch several times a week. The world is a better place with those great minds figuring everything out! Please accept our condolences.*

*Susan (Fredericks) and Jeff Porter*

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**Jeff and Susan Porter** - November 16, 2020 at 11:09 AM

GB

“ *Sorry for the typos in my remembrance of Lynn. Small print and MD just doesn't help. Lynn and I talked about those interesting topics during our coffee sessions. God Bless.*

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**Gerald Baker** - November 15, 2020 at 11:19 PM

GB

“ Lynn wasn’t only a great friend, he was like my other brother. He was kind, thoughtful and definitely knowledgeable. He was my “go to guy” whenever I needed his expertise on any subject. Our coffee sessions were the greatest and something too always to look forward too. I prayed every morning, noon and night that God would cure Lynn of his sickness. I guess needed him more than we did. But I really miss him.

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**Gerald Baker** - November 15, 2020 at 11:11 PM

DB

“ To the family of Lynn. Please accept Barbara and my sympathy in the recent passing of Lynn. We got to know each other over the past years at UNK. I don't think that there were bigger fans than the two Johnson's. He will be missed by many places in the community and especially at UNK events.

*Dick and Barb Beechner*

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**Dick Beechner** - November 15, 2020 at 10:45 PM

RF

“ To Bernie and family we send our deepest sympathies and most sincere condolences. During the years we all lived and worked at Gretna High School, Lynn's warmth, humor, modesty and wit enlivened the times we spent together in the school and at faculty gatherings in our homes. We treasure his friendship and admire his accomplishments. We miss him deeply.

*Rex and Ethel Filmer*

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**Rex & Ethel Filmer** - November 15, 2020 at 09:39 PM

LM

“ We were cousins and my memories are more about when we got older. A history was written of our grandfather who took a North Star Line boat from Gotburg, Sweden to New York. He got all of the way to Nebraska by taking boats and walking west to claim 80 acres of land--which became the Swedish community of Wausa, in northeast Nebraska. His parents were lived near there until they moved to Norfolk. His mother was so creative. While he was getting his PhD in Lincoln, where my mother lived. we had some lively talks about our family histories. I plan to watch the on line memorial service tomorrow. Lou Moir, Bloomington, Indiana

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**Lorna Lou Moir** - November 15, 2020 at 07:47 PM

JF

“ Janet and I worked with Lynn for many years We both have fond memories of our friendship with him. Lynn was a perfect gentleman. He was always helpful, understanding and eager to help. We will miss seeing him at the basketball and volleyball games.

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**Jerry and Janet Fox** - November 15, 2020 at 12:05 PM

JG

“ Dr. Johnson was my cooperating teacher in education through KSC many years ago. A finer person and instructed I have never met. Rest In Peace Doc!  
Jim Goedert

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**jim goedert** - November 14, 2020 at 08:40 PM

LQ

“ Lynn was my father's only brother. We grew up spending most major holidays with Lynn, Bernie and David and Stacy. I always respected and admired him. I am in awe at his awards and accomplishments in his life. I will always remember the good chats I had with him through the years and how much I enjoyed gaining from his knowledge of history/Europe, etc. He gave my husband and myself good points on where to travel in Italy. He gave me numerous answers to questions about the Lingren family and their Swedish roots. He shared numerous books and printed info and tapes made by his mother, Ethel Lingren Johnson. I will always remember Lynn as a caring father and uncle and will deeply miss him.



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**Lori Quakenbush** - November 14, 2020 at 01:15 PM

LQ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Lori Quakenbush** - November 14, 2020 at 01:09 PM

SC

“ Mrs. Johnson and family,  
Your husband, dad and grandpa was a very special man. He was truly one of the good people on this earth. He will be greatly missed, so let's keep talking about him.

With heartfelt respect,

Steve and Holly Curtiss

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**Steve & Holly Curtiss** - November 14, 2020 at 11:04 AM

KO

“ Dr. Johnson was one of my most helpful teachers as I prepared for my teaching career. My sympathy to the family for your loss.

Kathy Olsufka, former teacher at Gibbon

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**kathryn olsufka** - November 14, 2020 at 09:50 AM

LM

“ Although Lynn and I lived too far apart to be together very often, we were "friends"--and cousins. When he was getting his PhD in Lincoln he visited my Mom and always made her laugh and hear stories she hadn't heard before about the family she married in to. He will be missed. Lou Moir

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**Lorna Lou Moir** - November 14, 2020 at 08:08 AM

MB

“ *Bernie and family,  
We want you to know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers today. Lynn was there for us when we needed someone. He was even my boss for awhile--loved every minute of it. Mike enjoyed the coffees and conversations so much. We both will miss him greatly*  
*Mike and Elaine*

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**Mike and Elaine Batenhorst** - November 13, 2020 at 10:44 PM

DJ

“ *an uncle, a friend, and a true gentleman. will be missed. -dan j.*

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**DANIEL JOHNSON** - November 13, 2020 at 07:42 PM

RS

“ *Lynn will be dearly missed! He was my closest friend for 76 years and a man I respected more than most. Rest in peace old friend. I will see you again soon.*

*Richard Seymour*

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**Richard Seymour** - November 13, 2020 at 03:47 PM

HD

“ *Hastings High Social Studies Department purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lynn E. Johnson.*



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**Hastings High Social Studies Department** - November 13, 2020 at 01:48 PM