



## Ryan L Johnson

April 20, 1981 - August 28, 2016

Ryan Lee Johnson, age 35, of Kearney died Sunday, August 28th, 2016 from injuries received in an auto accident in rural Dawson County.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He had an infectious smile that made people feel instantly comfortable and a heart that backed it up.

Funeral Services will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 1st at First Lutheran Church, 3315 G Ave, Kearney, with Rev. Meg Sander officiating. Interment will follow at the Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Memorials are suggested to either The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, a charity supported through the NAPA Get Back Give Back Program or to Johnson Lake EMS where various members of his family have proudly served for years.

Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Ryan was born on April 20th, 1981 in Lexington to Scott Johnson and Pam (Johnson) Gardner. He grew up in Kearney where he graduated from Kearney High School in 1999. He continued to call Kearney home throughout his life.

On September 23rd, 2000, Ryan married Amy Schmidt. He consistently told everyone how grateful he was for her and how she was the love of his life. They had two beautiful kids, Kaylie and Dylan, who he was extremely proud of - he would light up when he spoke about them. His wife and kids meant the world to him and he worked very hard to give them the best life he could.

Ryan joined the family business at age 5 and progressed through the ranks to become an owner of multiple NAPA stores, to the great pride of his father and co-workers who worked and grew with him. Working in the NAPA stores gave him the opportunity to build and develop many lifelong friendships.

Everyone who knew Ryan, knew he fully enjoyed life. He cherished spending time with his family. He especially appreciated spending time at Johnson Lake with family and friends – whether boating, fishing, jet-skiing or just being with those he loved. Ryan and Amy’s cabin became the place to gather over the 4th of July for his massive fireworks celebration.

Ryan made it a high priority to take time out and vacation with his family, always looking forward to the next destination. His favorite vacations spots often revolved around relaxing on the beach. They took many trips to Upper Michigan where Ryan enjoyed the outdoors - riding the trails on the ATV’s and snowmobiles. He also enjoyed fishing; whether deep sea or tossing a line off the bank. He was “the man” when it came to grilling a steak and always took the trophy in the family’s jerky contest. Among his many interests, he had a passion for NASCAR and never missed a Sunday race.

Ryan loved everyone in his family so dearly. Whether his sister who he referred to as his person, his father who was his best friend and mentor, or his mother who always had his back. He loved his friends like family. He was an amazing husband, father, brother, son, uncle, cousin, friend and more.

Survivors include his spouse Amy Johnson of Kearney; son Dylan Johnson of Kearney; daughter Kaylie Johnson and boyfriend Freddy Herrera of Kearney; father Scott Johnson and fiancé Kim Foley of Johnson Lake; mother Pam Gardner and Step-Father Ken Gardner of Johnson Lake; sister Kimberly Johnson of Hildreth; step-sisters Brandy Popken and husband Cody of Lexington, Lori Belitz of Kearney and Katie Newton of Omaha; other survivors include his nephews Jayden, Rylee and Macyn of Hildreth; nephews and nieces; Chassidy and Anthony Jr Turner of Kearney; niece Braylee Turner of Kearney, Kamryn Pike and Kinley Popken of Lexington, Makai Blue and Azaylia Schroeder of Kearney; grandparents Ray and Janet Lemos of Colorado and Judith Bradford of Missouri; his beloved great-aunt Betty Witmer of Colorado; his mother-in-law Barb Turner of Kearney, father-in-law Wayne Schmidt and fiancé Pam Avera of Shelton; brother-in-law Tony and wife Ashley of Kearney; brother-in-law Quincey Schmidt and Angie Nelson of Kearney; sister-in-law Alexis Turner of Kearney; and many, many aunts, uncles, cousins and amazing friends and co-workers.

Ryan was preceded in death by his grandparents Dorothy and Stuart Johnson, Marvin Bradford, cousin Gabe Johnson, uncle Robert "Unk" Witmer and in-laws Robert and Gloria Turner and Melvin and Esther Schmidt.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **31**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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>

## Funeral Service

SEP **1**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church  
3315 Ave G  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ryan L Johnson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Condolences to the Johnson family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family. Psalms 147:3 says God, "heals the broken hearted, and binds up their wounds." May God bring you comfort and peace.*

**Williams Family** - September 19, 2016 at 10:37 AM



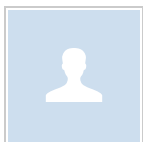
“ *Love and condolences for the families of Ryan. Remember though we are sad at his loss of life to us,...angels rejoice to receive another soul.  
Merle & Carol Lyons relatives of the Gardner family.*

**Merle & Carol Lyons** - September 02, 2016 at 01:06 PM



“ *Condolences from Jesus Rodriguez and family.*

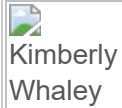
**Jesus Rodriguez** - September 01, 2016 at 10:36 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.*



August 31, 2016 at 06:06 PM



“ Dearest Amy and all of Ryan's family -- I am so sorry for your loss of Ryan. Praying that you can feel God's loving arms around during this time of intense loss. May you all lean on each other as you begin the grieving process. Praying for all of you. I will be sending you something later that may hopefully give you a little comfort during this extremely difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Kim Whaley (Elton Schmidt's sister-in-law)

Kimberly Whaley - August 31, 2016 at 05:24 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



August 31, 2016 at 04:55 PM



“ I grew going to NAPA conventions with Ryan. My condolences to the family from Julie Conley



Julie Conley - August 31, 2016 at 04:02 PM



“ scott, we are so sorry to hear about the loss of your son. you are in our thoughts and prayers. if you need anything done up here just let us know.take care.chad,jenniferand the kids,marsha morrison

chad morrison - August 31, 2016 at 03:51 PM

MM

“ *scott and kim and familyso sorry to hear about your son your in our thoughts and prayers chad and jennifer and kids and marsha morrison*

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**marsha morrison** - August 31, 2016 at 12:07 PM

CW

“ *Chad Barker, Debbie Stickley and John Walker purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Ryan L Johnson.*



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**Chad Barker, Debbie Stickley and John Walker** - August 31, 2016 at 11:53 AM

SA

“ *We want to extend our condolences to Ryan's entire family. Our memories of Ryan are of him as a little boy living with his family in Lakeview Acres. We had such a great time with his family and friends there. We're glad that Johnson Lake continued to be a special part of his life. May fond memories help to comfort you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Steve and Bonnie Atwood** - August 31, 2016 at 11:18 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.*



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August 31, 2016 at 10:53 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.*



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August 31, 2016 at 10:30 AM



“ *Amy and family, I'm so sorry for your tragic loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God hold you all close in the days, months, and years ahead. All my sympathy.  
Hugs, Susan Sidwell*

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**Susan Sidwell** - August 31, 2016 at 09:47 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers to the family.*

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**Rhonda Erickson** - August 31, 2016 at 09:45 AM



“ *Scott, Amy and family  
We are lifting you up in prayer. Our deepest condolences on your loss. Scott, you raised a good man who made you proud everyday. He was a gift from God and had an impact on everyone he met. He was taken way to soon but it is so clear that in his 35 years he touched the hearts of so many people and we hope that will bring you comfort. We love you.  
Megan and Cory*

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**megan** - August 31, 2016 at 09:00 AM

BF

“ *Bill and Nancy, John, Stacy and Zach and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ryan L Johnson.*



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**Bill and Nancy, John, Stacy and Zach and family** - August 30, 2016 at 11:13 PM

ME

“ *Our deepest condolences on your loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Scott, you raised a good man. One that made you proud everyday and touched the lives of so many people. He was a gift from God and taken far to soon. We will continue to lift you and your family up in prayer. We love you.*  
*Megan and Cory*

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**megan** - August 30, 2016 at 11:12 PM

YC

“ *Yesenia Chavez lit a candle in memory of Ryan L Johnson*



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**Yesenia Chavez** - August 30, 2016 at 10:14 PM

JJ

“ *Julie Jensen lit a candle in memory of Ryan L Johnson*



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**Julie Jensen** - August 30, 2016 at 09:58 PM

JJ

*Katie my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

**Julie Jensen** - August 30, 2016 at 09:59 PM

JB

“ *I'll always remember Ryan's devotions to his family!*

**Judith Bradford** - August 30, 2016 at 08:47 PM

LK

“ *Love, Cody Brandy Kam and Kinley purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ryan L Johnson.*



**Love, Cody Brandy Kam and Kinley** - August 30, 2016 at 08:11 PM

RS

“ *The world is going to miss Ryan. He was one of the kindest fellas I ever met! Make know mistake, ornery was in his eye, but that ornery business was what made him whole. Smart, generous, kind, and made me laugh! Always made a point to say HI and visit. You made the world a better place my friend!*  
*Rob*

**Rob Stuhr** - August 30, 2016 at 07:46 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.*



August 30, 2016 at 07:32 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



August 30, 2016 at 05:53 PM



“ Craig and Jacque Zikmund purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



Craig and Jacque Zikmund - August 30, 2016 at 05:33 PM



“ Terri Roberts Garris lit a candle in memory of Ryan L Johnson



Terri Roberts Garris - August 30, 2016 at 05:24 PM



“ Terri Roberts Garris sent a virtual gift in memory of Ryan L Johnson



Terri Roberts Garris - August 30, 2016 at 05:23 PM

SA

“ Stan & Michele Lundgren (Bear Frame & Alignment) purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



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**Stan & Michele Lundgren (Bear Frame & Alignment)** - August 30, 2016 at 04:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



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August 30, 2016 at 04:18 PM

JT

“ Jean, Curt, Linda and Troy purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



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**Jean, Curt, Linda and Troy** - August 30, 2016 at 03:01 PM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



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August 30, 2016 at 12:52 PM

RD

“ Amy, even though we never met Ryan, we want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you and the entire family at this very difficult time. We're praying for OUR Heavenly Father's presence and care for all of you to be of the greatest possible comfort. Herb and Roz Downer

Rozlynn Downer - August 30, 2016 at 12:38 PM

RU

“ Pam and Scott, We are so sorry to hear about Ryan. Pam, I remember loading our kiddos up in the strollers and taking long walks in the afternoons around the lake. Even though that was many years ago, it is a special memory for us. We will pray for God's grace for you and your family during this time. In sympathy, Randy and Ruth Seward

Ruth - August 30, 2016 at 12:18 PM

RS

“ Prayers for peace and strength to you all. I'm sure grandpa Marvin welcomed him home with a big hug and smile. God bless, Rick & Monica Storer

Rick & Monica Storer - August 30, 2016 at 11:34 AM



“ My heartfelt sympathy for the painful loss of Ryan. I pray that you feel God's presence through the love of the family and friends that surround you. Jarren Mohanna

Jarren Mohanna - August 30, 2016 at 11:17 AM

ES

“ Amy, Dylan, Kaylie, Wayne and all the rest of the close knit family - We are very sorry for your loss and pray that you will accept our condolences. Your loss is our loss and we pray that you will seek comfort in your faith and God in his wisdom and his word. With love and sympathy, Elton, Beth and Ben Schmidt

Elton Schmidt - August 30, 2016 at 10:13 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



August 30, 2016 at 07:48 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



August 30, 2016 at 07:44 AM

YC

“ Pam, Ken, Kim, and family Im so sorry for your loss, you all are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of sadness. My heart breaks for the pain you must be feeling!!! With deepest sympathy Yesenia Chavez and family.

Yesenia Chavez - August 30, 2016 at 12:06 AM

CL

“ Our thoughts & prayers are with you all during this tragic loss. God Bless you  
With deepest sympathies,  
Steve & Carol Lentell

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**Carol Lentell** - August 29, 2016 at 10:54 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ryan L Johnson.



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August 29, 2016 at 10:08 PM



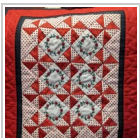
“ My birthday sharing cousin. You left us too early and will be missed.

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**Christina Ahola** - August 29, 2016 at 08:39 PM

CL

“ Amy and family, I am so sorry you are going through this. I keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. Claire Longly

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**claire longly** - August 29, 2016 at 06:07 PM



“ Amy and Dylan,  
We are so very sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy to your family. We will be praying for you all.  
Robyn Markussen and Zach and Hayden

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**Robyn Markussen** - August 29, 2016 at 04:30 PM



“ *Amy and Family, we are so sorry to hear of this...please let Jen or me know if we can do anything.*

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**JoLissa Mwerner** - August 29, 2016 at 03:09 PM



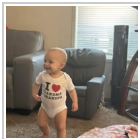
“ *Words cannot express the heartbreak we feel for you all. Sending prayers for comfort in dealing with this very tragic loss. With deepest sympathies, Con, Heidi, Ciera & Cale*

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**Heidi Neverve** - August 29, 2016 at 01:00 PM



“ *Amy and family: We are so sorry to hear of Ryan's death. May God embrace you and help you through this time of great sadness. Ed and Laura Methe*

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**Laura Methe** - August 29, 2016 at 01:07 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences to Amy and kids, Scott, Pam and Ken and Kim and rest of family. Chris and Mandi Vasquez and family*

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**Mandi Shultz-Vasquez** - August 28, 2016 at 01:24 PM