



Donald Lee Johnson

July 2, 1941 - March 26, 2026

It is with great sadness, yet deep gratitude for a life well-lived, that we announce the peaceful passing of Donald Lee Johnson, who left this world on March 26, 2026, in the loving presence of his family. Born on July 2, 1941, in Corning, NY, Don graced the world with his warmth, intelligence, and compassion for 84 wonderful years.

Don was the beloved son of Oscar and Myrtle (Greenfield) Johnson, whose loving guidance shaped him into the remarkable man he became. His early years in Corning and Horseheads were filled with adventure and learning, propelling him to graduate from Horseheads High School in 1959. Driven by a deep curiosity about the human mind and a desire to help others, Don earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Tulsa College in 1963, and later, a PhD in psychology from Indiana University in 1968.

In 1963, Don married the love of his life, Amy, in a heartfelt ceremony in Noel, Missouri. Their union, spanning over 62 remarkable years, was a testament to enduring love and partnership. Together, they raised three wonderful children: Adrienne Hendrickson, Gregory Johnson, and Christopher Johnson. Their family blossomed over the years, welcoming grandchildren Jonathan Hendrickson, Brian Hendrickson, Caleb Johnson, Abigail Johnson, and Silas Johnson, along with two step-grandchildren (Amy and Wes) and six great grandchildren, each of whom was cherished deeply by their grandfather. Don

is also survived by his sister Sally Ryan and 2 nephews, Jason and Matt, 1 grandnephew, and 2 grandnieces.

Don dedicated his professional life to education, using his expertise to enrich the lives of countless students as a school psychologist for the Hyde Park school district. His commitment to education was recognized when he was appointed Director of Special Education, a role he held with distinction until his retirement in 1992.

Beyond his professional achievements, Don was a man of many talents and interests. In his youth, he was an avid clarinet player, and delighted all who heard him play. He had a longtime love for tennis, a game he played with vigor until injuries forced him to retire his racket at the age of 80. An enthusiastic traveler, Don, with Amy, explored the vast beauty of the United States and Canada, embracing every journey with curiosity. He traveled extensively for someone who would not fly.

Don was a cherished member of St. Paul Catholic Church in Leesburg for the past 15 years, where he found community and spiritual fulfillment. His faith was a guiding force in his life, providing strength and comfort to himself and those around him.

Known for his quick wit and warm smile, Don had an extraordinary ability to make everyone feel welcome and valued. His kindness and generosity left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. Whether sharing a joke to lighten the mood or offering a listening ear, Don always led with compassion and empathy.

As we bid farewell to Don, we remember a man who lived fully and loved deeply. His legacy of love, humor, and kindness will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. In the face of life's challenges, including his

recent courageous battle with leukemia, Don remained steadfast in his love and gratitude for the life he lived.

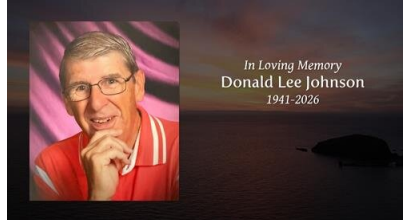
A celebration of Don's life will be held at St. Paul Catholic Church in Leesburg, where friends and family will gather to honor the memory of a truly remarkable man. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. Paul Catholic Church in Don's honor.

Rest in peace, dear Don. Your light will forever shine in our hearts.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Lee Johnson*



Beyers Funeral Home - April 03 at 11:20 AM

CS

I'm so sorry to hear of Don's passing. I worked at FDR High School in Hyde Park for 33 years and Don was the one that hired me as a Special Education teacher in 1986. He was an awesome boss and I enjoyed working for him. My condolences to his family. May he RIP.

Cindy Fryer Simeone - April 07 at 04:30 PM

DH

“ *I'm so sorry to learn of Don's passing. Reading his obituary, I found out so much about him. I only knew him as such a kind & friendly gentleman who played tennis with us. He made everyone feel welcome and added so much to Highland Lakes and the St Paul Catholic communities.*

Dee Holliday - April 05 at 12:43 PM