



Arlen Edward Johnson

December 11, 1936 - May 14, 2026

Arlen Edward Johnson was born in Almelund, Minnesota, on December 11, 1936, to Myrtle and Clarence Johnson. He grew up in the North Branch area and graduated from North Branch High School in 1954. At age 18, he began a lifelong career at General Mills. During his early years, he furthered his education through studies at the Dunwoody Institute and the University of Minnesota, and he proudly served for six years in the Army National Guard. After 40 years with General Mills, Arlen retired as a Senior Food Research Scientist. His proudest professional accomplishment was the formulation and development of the Betty Crocker SuperMoist cake mix, a legacy that continues to bring joy to countless families.

In 1963, Arlen married Sharon Olson, and together they welcomed two sons, Brent and Bradley. In 1968, they purchased their first home in New Hope, Minnesota, where Arlen and Sharon spent 58 of their 62 years together. Following his retirement, Arlen and Sharon especially enjoyed traveling the world. He also treasured many years of golfing with friends from General Mills. A dedicated sports fan, Arlen faithfully followed the Vikings, Twins, Timberwolves, and Lynx-but his greatest loyalty was to the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

Family was the most important part of Arlen's life. He loved coaching his sons' sports teams, teaching them handyman skills, and later, spending cherished time with his three grandchildren, who were his pride and joy.

Arlen was the sixth of nine children and deeply valued his large family. He is

survived by his brother Ronnie and sisters Sandy and Bonnie. He was preceded in death by his parents, several siblings, and his beloved daughter-in-law, Jeannie. In addition to his wife, Sharon, Arlen is survived by his son Brent and his wife Sara, and their children Ethan and Anna; and his son Brad and grandson Nick.

In lieu of memorials, please consider a donation to your local food shelf

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

House of Hope Lutheran Church
4800 Boone Ave. N.
New Hope, MN 55428

Memorial Service

JUN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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4800 Boone Ave. N.
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Reception

JUN 6. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

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4800 Boone Ave. N.
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