



## Merry Johnson

April 26, 2002

Merry Parsons Johnson, age 51, of Mpls. Survived by husband, James E.; children, Joe (Elise) Johnson, Kristi (Brent) Mather, Jesse (Joe) Moran; 3 grandchildren; brother, Bennett (Beverly) Parsons; aunt, Ann (Jack) Eastman. Memorial service Saturday, 3 pm, 1800 Emerson Ave S. Private interment. Washburn-McReavy 612-377-2203

# Tribute Wall



“ Merry, Beverly and I just got back from Scottsdale where we took a little vacation. Whenever I'm in Scottsdale I go to your favorite places like the Sugar Bowl and the Fifth Ave. shops. It brings back such great memories of you and our parents escaping those nasty Minnesota winters for a little bit. I think of you everyday and feel blessed that you're always with me in spirit. Love, Bennett

[Contact Me](#)

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April 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Christmas will always remind me of you my MERRY your name came to life on this Holiday. Whenever I see ' real ' red silk ribbon I think of how you insisted that it be wide and lots of it. You are always in my thoughts and the memorial tree that I planted for you is there with your photo every day to greet me with " that face " and look of pure joy. This year the tree will flower with lacey fowers like that large white Lace bow that you were wearing in your hair the night I met you. You loved lace so much.

The tree faces South overlooking the vast landscape of the Northern Great Plains full of unlimited vistas, animals and wild fowers. You would have loved it here, it is so open, free and peaceful.

Thank you for all the beautiful memories -  
Merry Christmas my Darling Merry -  
I love you - Jamie

~

*jamie,*

*Hecla, South Dakota*

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jamie - December 28, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ It is Christmas Day and your Dickens characters are on display on the entry table to continue one of your traditions. I opened a gift you gave me years ago- a bar of French hand-milled soap that reminds me so much of you and the joy you took in wrapping presents with individual cloth ribbons each year. We think of you often - not just at Christmas - and continue to miss having you here with us. There are so many days when Bennett or I see something that we think you would have enjoyed. We take comfort in knowing that while we can't share these with you directly, we believe that you know when you are in our thoughts and we take comfort knowing that you are at peace. Merry Christmas Merry...

~

*Beverly Parsons,*

*Bermuda Dunes, California*

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**Beverly Parsons** - December 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Dear Merry: It's late at night. I am listening to Crosby, Stills and Nash and thinking of you...and missing you so much. Your life force was so strong that the lessons you taught me become clearer all the time.

*I will always see us walking in London... hitchhiking in France..playing on the beach in Spain.*

*In the end, we are not always what we have become...but who we always were.*

*Love, Patty*

~

*Patty Amo,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Patty Amo** - May 10, 2004 at 12:00 AM

J-

“ *Thinking of Merry today and missing her. Joy*

~

*Joy Pritchard -O'Donnell,*

*Tucson, Arizona*

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**Joy Pritchard -O'Donnell** - March 01, 2004 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Merry:

*Dear friend, it has been more than a year since we lost you. I think of you so often. Your loving brother, Bennett, has sent me photos of our days together. Your loved ones miss you so much, but I just know that we all smile as we each treasure our special memories of you.*

*When you were young, at home in Edina, you had this sign on the mirror in your bedroom: "The most important thing you can put on before you leave the house is a smile". I think of that a lot. You had some tough times, Mer, but you managed to smile through most of them. And you surely added warmth and joy to all of our lives. You were all heart, and that is where I carry you.*

*Love,  
Patty*

~

*Patty Amo,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Patty Amo** - May 06, 2003 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *Merry,*

*always thinking of you.*

*Love you.*

*Bennett*

~

*Bennett Parsons,*

*Indio, California*

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**Bennett Parsons** - April 23, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ On this anniversary of the day that my darling Merry left for the ultimate trip, I remember how she loved to take trips, when I met her she always carried a airline ticket to London in her purse. She was always ready for an adventure and the happiest when she was on the road. I miss

her smile that would light up my heart and others. She had the most beautiful face.

Our friend the late Gus Gustophersen, mpls. legendary fashion photographer called her with great admiration "The Face ". She was a most beautiful person outside and inside. I miss her strange sense of humor she would tell a joke and only she would laugh. I miss her passion for everything, she loved so deeply - her family, her friends, her books, her going out to dinner at Lucias, her favorite movies and most of all her memories, the stories of her amazing life as a citizen of the world. Some of her greatest adventures were before we met and fell in love and proceeded to have more adventures. I will never forget this most beautiful Angel Baby that came into my life dressed in white lace with a bow of lace in her hair - one Spring day and left one Spring day to be with all her Angel friends.

I am a blessed man to have had her in my life. I love and miss her -  
Jamie

~

Jamie,

*mpls., Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Jamie** - April 23, 2003 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Merry, on this Christmas I think of the joy, warmth, love and compassion you brought to all of your friends and loved ones during your lifetime.

*The Dickens figures that you treasured are now prominently displayed as part of our Christmas decorations in the house. Your love and spirit are always with me. Merry Christmas, Merry.*

~

*Bennett Parsons,*

*Bermuda Dunes, California*

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**Bennett Parsons** - December 25, 2002 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Merry:

*As we approach the holidays I can't help but stop and remember how special Christmas always was to you. Christmas on Upton. Christmas in Tangle town! Your fabulous, gorgeous Christmas tree. The wonderful smells of good foods cooking, and woodsmoke from the crackling fireplace. The great parties you held for friends and neighbors. You were such a nervous hostess, but such a natural! I remember your 'heart-wide-open' generosity. The jean jacket you gave me in 1983 is still my favorite. And the suitcase you gave me has travelled with me many times to many lands.*

*I mostly, though, remember your boundless enthusiasm for the spirit of this wonderful season. You carried that special spark always. You shared that enthusiasm with everyone you loved, and you loved like you lived: 'heart-wide-open'. When I miss you most, and break down and cry, I remember your spark, and know it still shines in all of us who loved you.*

*Merry Christmas, dear Merry.*

*Love, Patty*

~

*Patty Amo,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Patty Amo** - December 16, 2002 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Over the past few months since Merry's passing, I find myself reflecting on her life, the vibrance of her youth, and what she meant to me. I was lucky to have her as a friend. Thinking of Merry today (and all of us who loved her and were impacted by her all too brief life here on earth) and sending love, good health and peace. Joy*

~

*Joy Pritchard-O'Donnell,*

*Tucson, Arizona*

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**Joy Pritchard-O'Donnell** - August 27, 2002 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Merry :

*Bennett and I took the day off to remember what would have been your 52nd Birthday and to miss that you weren't here to talk with and celebrate. We took you in spirit to La Jolla (which you would have loved), stopped at a Crabtree and Evelyn (where you would have bought Lavendar soaps ) and of course bought books (which you would have enjoyed along with a Cafe au Lait ).*

*Every day since left is painful for Bennett, but today, we enjoyed many of the things that the two of you share in common as a way of keeping you still with us. Best Wishes for your state of grace and peace on your Birthday. Love, Beverly.*

~

*Beverly Parsons,*

*Bermuda Dunes, California*

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**Beverly Parsons** - August 16, 2002 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *Happy Birthday Merry. I thought of you today and all the wonderful times we had as brother and sister.  
I dearly miss you. Am thinking of you everyday. All my love.*

~

*Bennett Parsons,*

*Bermuda Dunes, California*

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**Bennett Parsons** - August 16, 2002 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ I miss you Merry . . .

~

*Larry Hofmann,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Larry Hofmann** - July 17, 2002 at 12:00 AM

“ I first met Merry when I started dating her brother, Bennett in November of 1982. She and Richard invited Bennett and me to dinner at their house on Wentworth. That house had a lot of Merry touches to it - her love of Laura Ashley and Waverly fabrics and antiques. I got to meet many of her friends at Christmas parties which she and Richard threw while they were together. I also began a ritual of having brunches at the New French Cafe where Merry and I would meet at 10:00 am and enjoy champagne cocktails, Cafe au Lait and of course, for Merry, a coke "in the bottle please" and then a very leisurely lunch until 2:00 or 3:00 pm. During these brunches, I got to learn a lot about Merry's travels after high school (her time spent in Europe, etc). Since both Merry and I are the exact same age, we shared a lot of common experiences from the late 60's early 70's.

After Merry and Richard were divorced and Merry embarked on her "revisit to London" phase, she would often stay at our home out in Minnetrista between visits to London. She had her own room upstairs across the hall from my son, Doug , from whom she often borrowed jeans to wear when she was stateside. I also have very fond memories of Merry dressing all in white to enjoy a Sunday afternoon while Bennett played Tennis. Merry just had that tendency to live her life with images that were straight out of classic stories.

We had the blessing of taking care of Merry's St. Bernard, Belle, whenever Merry was travelling and enjoyed watching Merry reunite with Belle whenever she was home. Many of my memories of Merry have a very vivid picture of her with a St. Bernard. (Belle and then Wheatie and Winnie)

After Merry met Jamie, we often saw the two of them during the holidays alternating Christmas and New Years at their home or ours while we still lived in Minnesota. I think Christmas will always be entwined with all the effort that Merry put into decorating houses, dogs, friends, anything she could in an effort to have everything Dickensian to match the world that she pictured herself in.

*Although Merry and Jamie came to visit us for Christmas in Las Vegas, I think one of the best Christmases we shared over the last several years was this past Christmas in Bermuda Dunes. Merry enjoyed the warmth and healing of the sun and shopping on El Paseo including lunch at a French Cafe where the two of us revisited the brunches we used to enjoy at New French. On Christmas morning, Merry insisted that we could not begin opening presents until both of the dogs had red ribbons around their neck. That was such a Merry touch and something that we will always do each Christmas as a way of keeping Merry with us.*

*Although Merry struggled with the reality of life and a pain that none of us could really help her with, I am struck by the effort that she put into creating an ongoing life with beauty, affection for animals, and attention to her friendships and relationships always searching for something that she thought was missing in her life.*

*There are so many little things, a St. Bernard, a bottle of coke, the scent of Opium perfume, Waverly fabrics, "The Bishop's Wife", any Charles Dickens' classic that will cause me to forever stop and think of Merry.*

*Her incredible drive to bring class and beauty into any experience have made an indelible impression on me and will always cause me to stop and take stock of little things which in their own way will be the legacy which Merry brings to my life. I will need to learn to replace tissues with real linen handkerchiefs and will forever need to remember to put red bows on the dogs at Christmas.*

*Merry will always be in my heart and in many little acts of kindness for the rest of my life.*

~

*Beverly Parsons,*

*Bermuda Dunes, California*

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**Beverly Parsons** - June 09, 2002 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Merry, am thinking of you everyday.

Love,  
Bennett

~

*Bennett Parsons,*

*Bermuda Dunes, California*

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**Bennett Parsons** - May 24, 2002 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ To my Aunt Merry who always had time for me was an honor to have as family. Will always miss you.

*Love, Doug*

~

*Doug Arrington,*

*Palm Desert*

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**Doug Arrington** - May 07, 2002 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ Words cannot express how much I miss you and how much I love you. You will forever be in my heart.

*Bennett*

~

*Bennett,*

*Bermuda Dunes , California*

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**Bennett** - May 06, 2002 at 12:00 AM

J(

“Merry and I were special friends. We had many adventures together during our teens and 20's. When I remember Merry I think of how much she loved Christmas, traveling, shopping, music and new adventures. I see us driving back from Mexico in 1973 and singing the song "I can see clearly now, the rain has gone. All of the bad feelings have disappeared. Gone are the dark skies that had me blind. It's gonna be a bright, bright shiney day." Merry gave me a stained glass picture of a beach to remind me of our days on the beaches of Mexico and it has an inscription from a quote of Emerson "A friend may well be the masterpiece of nature". That's my friend Merry. Sending Peace and Love to all who knew and loved her. Joy Pritchard O'Donnell, Tucson, Az.

~

Joy O'Donnell (Pritchard),

Tucson, Arizona

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Joy O'Donnell (Pritchard) - April 29, 2002 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *Merry: We all love and miss you desperately. The missing years are not forgotten. Too many words left unspoken. Your tender life was a circle. We knew you when others did not, and we celebrate those years and that life, too. Perhaps, especially those years. P.S.B.B.R.*

~

*Patty Amo,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Patty Amo** - April 29, 2002 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Everyones thoughts continue to be with you. I love the obituary.*”

~

*Joe Johnson,*

*Honolulu, Hawaii*

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**Joe Johnson** - April 25, 2002 at 12:00 AM