



## Neil Robert Johnson

December 6, 1946 - October 14, 2024

### NEIL ROBERT JOHNSON

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Neil Robert Johnson, of Minnetonka, passed into the presence of his Lord on October 14th, 2024, at the age of 77, after slowly fading from Lewy body dementia.

He was born on December 6, 1946, to Ture and Margaret Johnson in Chicago, Illinois, joining two older brothers in the family, Douglas and Marvin. His father Ture and two of his brothers had emigrated from Sweden and began Johnson Brothers Builders and Contractors. When Neil was seven years old, his father passed away, and Margaret moved her three sons back to her hometown of Menominee, Michigan, where Neil became a life-long Green Bay Packer fan, living 60 miles from Green Bay.

Neil attended North Shore Baptist Church where he learned to put his faith in Jesus his Savior. Neil grew to love the Church, as some of the men filled a role of mentor and took him porcupine hunting and fishing. He has always continued to love God's people and served faithfully throughout his life.

He graduated from Menominee High School in 1965. These were the years of the Vietnam War, and knowing that his draft number was coming up, Neil

enlisted in the army and chose to train as a sentry dog handler in the military police. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1968 for a year.

After his military service, Neil moved to the Minneapolis area and started attending Edgewater Baptist Church. It was there he met two very important people. His loving wife of 52 years, Diane Stake. And in The Boys' Brigade group, a young Jon Anderson who years later would become his business partner of 36 years.

Neil and Diane were married on March 25, 1972, and he began working in the printing business at Robert's Litho. In 1982, he and Jon began Johnson/Anderson, a printing company specializing in envelopes. They had a partnership that foremost centered on their faith in Jesus Christ, and through the ups and downs of business, that faith never faltered.

Neil and Diane were blessed with two children, Kjersten, born in 1973, and Keith, born in 1975. Neil was a kind and patient husband and father, who was a godly example to us.

In 2020, Neil was given the diagnosis of Lewy body dementia that slowly started to change his ability to manage life. In July of 2024, the difficult decision was made to move him to Trouvaille Memory Care Homes in Excelsior. We are so grateful for the wonderful caregivers at Trouvaille. Even as Neil's mind was fading, I would hear from them that Neil would mouth the words to a hymn that was playing or recite a scripture verse.

Neil met Jesus, who he has loved all his life, face-to-face on October 14th. We will deeply miss him and mourn that he is not with us, but we know he is healed and whole.

Survived by his wife Diane, daughter Kjersten (Roger) Peters, son Keith

(John) Nickolaus-Johnson, brothers Rev. Douglas (Helen) Johnson, Dr. Marvin (Kathi) Johnson, sisters-in-law Karin (Dr. Dean) Kaihoi, Julie (Rev. Scott) Peterson, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of Neil's life will be held on Thursday, October 24th, at Grace Church Chapel (Door 2) in Eden Prairie. Visitation at 10:00am, service at 11:00am with luncheon to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Trouvaille Memory Care or Grace Church.

Interment

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Church (Eden Prairie)  
9301 Eden Prairie Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

## Celebration of Life

OCT **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Grace Church (Eden Prairie)  
9301 Eden Prairie Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ I will always be forever grateful to Neil Johnson for investing in me as a young man. He was my mentor and friend. I worked at Johnson Anderson for 7 years and grew in my faith as a Christian because of Neil. I wish I could have been at the funeral to share with his family and friends all that he meant to me. I read of Neil's passing this morning (Oct. 24th) while his funeral was actually being conducted. I am very sad that I missed the opportunity to share with Neil's family, friends and my old coworkers at J-A how much he meant to me. Neil always knew what was important- taking time to love others and leading them to Christ. I want his daughter Kjersten to know that I enjoyed working with her and her dad. He was the best boss I ever had! I am praying for his family while they grieve this great loss. I will see you again Neil! I look forward to it!!!

Dave Danielson - October 24, 2024 at 12:59 PM

LH

“ I worked at JA for 3 1/2 years. Neil & Jon were great to work for! I remember Neil as very kind and genuine. I remember him asking “Do you want the short answer or the long one?” I am blessed for having known Neil. My prayers go out to his family and friends.



Linda Hornick - October 22, 2024 at 04:46 PM

JA

“What a wonderful tribute to Neil - my friend, mentor and business partner for many years. When I think of Neil, I think of words like "kind, patient, steady, strong, loyal, giving and consistent." He always cared about people and mirrored the love of Jesus to others. He never hesitated to share his faith or to stop and pray with people who needed to be lifted up. He loved his family, who were always a subject of our weekly prayer times.

*I am one of many who will miss him but join others in celebrating the fact that his suffering is over and he is healed. We will see him again.*

*Jon Anderson*

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jon Anderson - October 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM