

Janis Rae Johnson

Janis was lovingly known as the “Lefse Queen” by her family and friends. She was a four-time consecutive recipient of the Silver Platter Award at the Wilkin County Fair and brought joy to hundreds each year with her homemade lefse and baked goods. Her greatest passion in life was spending time with her children and grandchildren. Her home was always filled with laughter, activity, and the comforting aroma of something cooking in the kitchen.

Among her many cherished relationships, Janis shared a special bond with her grandson and roommate of the past six years, Jesse Johnson. Together, they enjoyed countless games of Bingo and Mexican Train, frequent thrift shopping adventures, and regular trips to her favorite treat stop, Dairy Queen. Janis also passed down her love for music, introducing Jesse to the timeless voices of Patsy Cline and Dolly Parton. And while she loved all of her grandchildren dearly, Janis made no secret of the fact that Jesse held the official title of “favorite”—a distinction he proudly accepted.

Janis was married to Gary Johnson, a longtime officer with the Breckenridge Police Department. Together, they made their home in North Breckenridge, where they raised six children and helped shape a vibrant and close-knit neighborhood community often referred to as the “11th Street Clan.”

She is survived by her children: Kathy Schultz (Tim), Karla Soyning (Brian), Kenneth Johnson (Michelle), Karl Johnson (Janelle), and Kyle Johnson (Stacy); Brothers, Roland “Rocky” Platt (Cindy), James Platt, Allen Platt (Connie); along with numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended family members who continue to carry forward her legacy of love, hospitality, and family tradition.

Janis was preceded in death by her husband, Gary Johnson; daughter, Kristi Sprung; sister, Mary Brown; parents, Ray and Leora Platt; brother, Gerald “Jerry” Platt; infant twin sister, Jean; and infant brother, Ronald.

Janis will be remembered for her warmth, her generosity, her sense of humor, and the many traditions she created that continue to live on through the lives she touched.

Memorials are preferred to Eagle Valley Cemetery in care of Eagle Valley Church, PO Box 21, Christine, ND 58015.



In Loving M E M O R Y



Janis Rae Johnson

1942 - 2025

The Matriarch Is Gone

A hush now settles in her well-worn chair. No more the voice that guided right from wrong, no more her laughter, bold and full and strong.

She ruled with kindness, steady as a drum, A sharp-eyed wit, and sugar-cookie thumb. Her hands could sew, could comfort, lift, and bless. Every fall her lefse left a mess.

Sunday nights with cards and coffee steam, she stitched our family into one shared dream. Bingo nights her thrill, her battle zone with daubers ready, numbers called, fun-grown into cheers that rang out clear and bright, as she'd shout "Bingo!" with pure delight.

She loved her stories, quilted snug and wise, could see straight through you with those knowing eyes. She held her sorrows, never turned away, she taught us how to laugh, and how to stay.

Now silence hums where once her voice would rise, but still, we see her in the evening skies - In every buttered lefse, hot and round, in every bingo ball that rolls and sounds.

She built her home with patience, love, and grace, each grandchild wrapped in her warm embrace. Though now she rests beneath the quiet sod, her warmth remains in every path we trod.

The matriarch is gone - but not her thread. She stitched us tight with every word she said. And though her hands are still, her spirit's strong.

She's in our hearts. She's whispering us on. Let's keep her legacy living on.

Andy Gregor | Grandson

Janis Rae Johnson

Born

May 25, 1942 | Ada, Minnesota

Passed Away

July 27, 2025 | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Age

83 Years | 2 Months | 2 Days

Funeral Service

1:00 PM | Monday, August 11, 2025

Vertin-Munson Funeral Home | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Officiant

René Hasbargen

Message

James Johnson

Organist

Kay Nelson

Readings

Palms 23 | John 14:1-3, 6, 27 | Isaiah 41:10

Music

Zach Johnson | "The Old Rugged Cross"
Hymn | "How Great Thou Art"
Hymn | "Savior Like A Shepherd, Lead us"

Pallbearers

Janis's Grandchildren

Interment

Eagle Cemetery | Christine, North Dakota