

We Gather To Celebrate The Life Of

Verna Blanche Johnson

Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Westminster United Church, The Pas, Manitoba

Presider: Linda Buchanan

Processional Music – 'Will the Circle Be
Unbroken', Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

Greeting and Words of Welcome

First Reading: 1st Corinthians 13: 4-13

Second Reading: 'Life Is But A Stopping Place',
(author unknown)

Reflection: Linda Buchanan

Music Ministry: 'Going Home', Sissel Kyrkjebo

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Commendation and Committal

Benediction

Recessional Music – 'Deep Peace', Bill Douglas

Reception to follow in C-Wing

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things
I cannot change, the courage to change
the things I can, and the wisdom to know
the difference.*

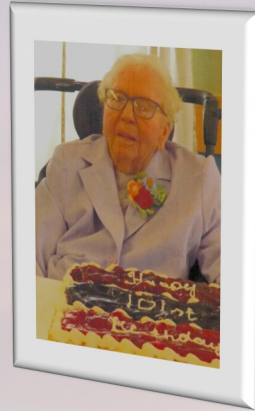


Hemauer Funeral Home, The Pas, Manitoba

www.hemauerfuneralhome.com



*Time takes its time
And life takes its toll
To seek is to find
As to fly is to fall
Love is all, Love is all
Precious love.*



In Loving Memory of
VERNA BLANCHE JOHNSON
May 21, 1922 - March 12, 2025



Blanche was the youngest child of Ellen and Irvin Soura. She was born on a farm in the Lavender District around Bowsman, MB and her stories and snapshots reflect a happy childhood there.

Mom had especially fond memories of being around the horses and remembered how important they were in the early days hauling logs in winter and pulling buggies and sleighs and the oven warmed rocks for hands and feet. And of course she remembered the one room schoolhouse and the two mile walk each way, every day through all the seasons and weather and occasionally reminded me of that fact on cold winter mornings when I was a young schoolboy. Later she went to high school in Bowsman where she stayed with her grandma and grandpa Walker.

Again the stories and pictures and smiles show a happy, carefree time of women's baseball teams and "the Lavender Girls" descending on Madge Lake for a week or two each summer.

Time marches on and mom left the nest and moved to The Pas to work for Keddie and Fowler during and after the war. She had a suite in the Herald Block and that is where she met dad after the war. Blanche and Jack were married on December 6, 1951.

Apparently it took mom eight months to get dad aimed in the right direction. He sobered up and she kept him on

course for the next 59 years. They were a good pair and they built a great life together and travelled much of the world over the years.

Over the years while raising two kids mom found time to volunteer with the hospital auxiliary and the Rotary ladies. She was also involved with Al-non and TOPS. She had an artistic side and enjoyed poetry and painting with friends Jean and Ruth. She curled, cross country skied, and walked to stay active over the years and golfed with her friend Helen into her early 80's. Mom took her last swim in Clearwater Lake at the age of 86. She loved the lake and never more so than when (in the old days) her mom would visit for a month or so. They would set up shop and pickle and preserve over that old wood stove as the gardens grew and the berries ripened. It was a sight to behold and I remember it well as I was the running water boy. More than one bear followed its nose to that cabin and surprisingly to us mom was more nervous of lightning storms than bears. She was of that generation of women that had a certain blend of dignity and pioneer resilience. She took the high road in life whenever possible but could be as tough as she had to be.

The high road led her to an introduction to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Mom and Dad accompanied the royals around town on their visit. That was one of the very rare times I ever saw mom nervous. Her resilience and toughness came through for her when she dug deep and beat cancer in the 90's simply stating that she wasn't ready to go yet. Mom took it all in stride and no one benefited more than her family from her tight ship, even keel philosophy. We all knew how hard she tried to make things better for us day in and day out over the years and decades - always there for us.

In 2020 the cancer returned and even then she never broke stride saying that there was simply nothing more she could do about that. She actually beat cancer twice because she died with cancer not because of it. She found comfort in the serenity prayer and strength in her deep quiet faith.

Mom lived a long full life and she will be as deeply missed as she is loved.