



## LeRoy Johnson

September 7, 1934 - September 1, 2019

LeRoy was born in Lyons, Nebraska on 9/7/1934 to Roy and Laura Johnson. He passed on 9/1/2019, after a long illness, at home surrounded by his loving family. All of his life he was a Nebraska farm boy at heart. After graduating high school in West Point Nebraska, in 1952 he served in the US Army as a map maker in Frankfurt Germany.

In 1956 he met the love of his life, Joann Reichlinger, and the two married in West Point. Their wedding vows of “for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health,” defined their lives together. The couple welcomed a son, Jim in 1959, and a daughter, Lisa in 1964. The GI bill and his devoted wife helped him earn his BS/MS in Mathematics from the University of South Dakota. While there, he was invited to join the academic society Phi Beta Kappa. In 1966, he moved his family to Pullman, WA, earning his PhD in Physics from WSU in 1971 (Go Cougs).

He devoted his life to teaching. He started while in the army, teaching other soldiers how to make maps. This was near the end of the Korean War, and his students were very motivated to stay in Germany. He also taught at the University of South Dakota, Big Bend Community College, the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia, and Central Wyoming College. He retired from Big Bend in Moses Lake, WA, in 1990.

LeRoy's passion for the out of doors was an everyday occurrence. Most of the Moses Lake fishing community would recognize his dog and boat out on the lake. Bird hunting was his other passion. His nephew, Dick Weiler was quite concerned that his kids would grow up with fins and feathers, based on an excessive consumption of ducks and walleye.

He is survived by his wife JoAnn of 62 years, his son Jim Johnson (Tammy) of Snohomish, WA and daughter Lisa Sydenstricker (Eric) of Wenatchee, WA. He was the proud Papa of 6 grandchildren, Royce, Laura, Emma, Leroy, Tyler and Travis. His parents and his sisters Marie, Darlene, Margie, Dorothy, and Donnie preceded him in death. Older sister Bev lives in Colorado.

In lieu of flowers the family has created a "GoFundMe" to be used for Community Services in Moses Lake. On the GoFundMe web site search for LeRoy Johnson Memorial Fund.

A military memorial service will be held at Guardian Angels cemetery in Moses Lake on 10/19/2019 at 1:00 pm.

Here's to a great life well lived.

# Cemetery Details

## Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 765-7848

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

OCT 19. 1:00 PM (PT)

Guarding Angels Cemetery  
2595 Road L N.E.  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 765-7848

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ Dear Jim and Family,

*Very sorry for your loss. I didn't know your dad very well as I only met him several times when we were in H.S. and WSU but can tell that his was a life well lived. Hope you all are well. I have some very fond memories of our high school days backpacking in the Cascades and wanted to let you know. Take Care!*

*Ken Dart  
2721 Concomly Rd S  
Salem, OR 97306*

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**Ken Dart** - October 22, 2019 at 08:20 PM

JF

“ *Rest In Peace, LeRoy. Love and fond memories of you and JoAnn as we shared being part of the Big Bend family.*

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**Jack and JB Fletcher** - October 19, 2019 at 08:05 PM

RD

“ *LeRoy built a house next door to us in the 80's and was a great neighbor. Our kids were preschoolers at the time and he would take time to play and talk with them. He was a fine man. May God rest his soul and give peace to the family.*

*Randy Dickinson*

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**Randy Dickinson** - October 19, 2019 at 01:57 PM

BJ

“ *Leroy and I were colleagues at Big Bend Community College for over 15 years. He was a good friend and a man of sterling integrity. His intelligence was unmatched and he was widely respected by both his students and his peers. I will miss him, and am richer for having known him. My deepest condolences go out to JoAnn and his loving family..*

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**Barbara Jacobs** - October 18, 2019 at 01:16 PM

JJ

“ *Leroy and my brother Tom were great West Point friends and I know Tom would mourn his passing and wish Leroy's family condolences. These old friends passed within days of one another...God speed Leroy.*

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**Jerry Juhl** - September 21, 2019 at 02:59 AM

RB

“ *LeRoy and I were neighbors when we were very young in West Point, Nebraska. He was a good athlete and very nice guy. May he rest in peace, Robert Benne*

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**Robert Benne** - September 08, 2019 at 10:39 AM