



Mary Johnson

August 22, 1923 - November 21, 2024

Mary Gertrude Johnson

August 22, 1923--November 21, 2024

Life

" Up the hills of life we climb Through the troubles and the joys Bearing bravely all our troubles All of us, both girls and boys."

Written by Mary Gertrude Fike, 1934

At the age of one hundred and one Mary G. Johnson, longtime resident of Brewster, died peacefully November 21, 2024, in her home by the river. Mary Fike was born August 22, 1923, to parents Ernest and Gertrude Fike in Sidney, Iowa. In 1929 the Fike family moved to East Wenatchee where the family lived in temporary housing and later moved to Palisades where Mary attended school in a one room schoolhouse. She graduated from Wenatchee High School and was among the graduates in one of the first graduating classes of Wenatchee Valley Junior College.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Gertrude (née Hamilton) and Ernest Fike, sisters Sylvia, Inez, and Avis, brother Earl, husband John, and grandson Tyler. She is survived by her children: Terry (Trecia/Marika), Claudia (David/ Benjamin and Rebecca), Tim (Vicki/Nikki and Kelsey), Kevin (Crystal/Casey, Matt, and Jaimie), Keith (Sue/ Kyle and Claire), Lisa

(Kosei/Naomi and Ian), companion Jack Wood, and step-grandchildren Sean and Iris Fairchild. Surviving also are nieces Tanya Fike, Christy Johnson and Debbie Doty and nephews Bryan and Dale Cockrum, Gerry Giles, and eight great-grandchildren.

In 1943 Mary married John O. "Johnny" Johnson, her husband of fifty-one years. Mary and John resided in Chelan, then moved to Wenatchee where Johnny took employment as a flight instructor for Wenatchee Air Service and on a wartime provisional certificate. Mary taught 1st grade at Stevens Elementary School. In 1953 when Johnny was offered a foreman's job at Crane & Crane Ranch, Mary and Johnny moved their young family to Brewster.

After Mary raised her family, she returned to Central Washington State College in 1973 to complete her bachelor's degree in childhood education. Because of her passion for children, their care and education, in 1976, she established The Children's House daycare on Bridge Street in Brewster. For her business and service to the community, The Children's House was awarded Brewster Chamber of Commerce's 1998 business of the year award. In 1999 she retired and passed the business along to son Keith.

Mary loved to travel and journeyed to countries on six continents. She loved nature and hiking the outdoors. A strong advocate of the Brewster Sr. Center, Mary attended regularly until her health failed. A lifelong lover of literature, Mary especially enjoyed poetry and loved committing poems to memory. In addition to her love of family, she was an avid 'Zags fan and had a special fondness for the music of Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell. A lawn filled with quail never failed to delight her.

At a later date the family will hold a private memorial at Packwood Memorial Cemetery on Dyer Hill in Douglas County.

Mary's family extends their thanks to Angela Barboza, Holly Barrutia, Francisca Hernandez, and Jennifer Holmes for their excellent and loving care of our mother the past two and a half years.

Memorial donations may be made in Mary's name to the St. Labre Indian School, P.O. Box 216, Ashland, Montana 59003

Tribute Wall

KJ

“*Mary, Mom, Nana...these words were said many, many, times over the last 101 years. I spent 70 years of my life with this wonderful woman, she was my Mom! Butterfly nets, swim lessons, piano lessons, aquariums, lizards, spiders, guinea pigs, scorpions, cats, dogs, magpies, tap dance lessons, graciously cooking fresh kill for dinner, Scouts, Brewster Bears sports, ferrying me when the bridge was down, a trip or two to the principals office to rescue me..... she was always there, kind and supportive. I know my siblings will agree. She became Nana as our families grew and the matriarch to all our gatherings....Easters, Crab Feeds, Birthday parties, Christmas gatherings with rousing white elephant games, outings to the Canyon or On Top, picnics, Thanksgivings, and 4th of Julys with fireworks and homemade ice cream....and many more! She loved all of our kids as if they were her own, providing guidance and support in any way she could. So much more could be said. Her nest on the river, Quail Meadows, was her sanctuary...we all loved visiting her there...scrabble, bingo, chicken foot, Jumbles, watching the Zags, reading and reciting poetry.....she wanted this to be her final chapter. The family gathered for her....bedside vigil....and she left this world in peace knowing she was loved...and she left this world making it a better place...for her teachings, spoken and unspoken, will carry on. She was a kind and loving woman, embraced life to the fullest, and an example to us all. You will be missed, Mary, Mom, Nana...but memories live on! I give my life to you!*

*Middle Son,
Kevin*

Kevin Johnson - December 06, 2024 at 10:50 PM

VJ

This is beautiful, Kev. ❤️

Vicki Lee Johnson - December 07, 2024 at 02:09 PM

KB

101 years, she had a life that was truly amazing. My condolences to the Johnson Family and to all her friends who loved her dearly.

Kay (Marcellay) Benson - December 07, 2024 at 08:08 PM

TJ

Thanks for the wonderful tribute, Bro. We all have our thoughts and memories of Mom. Glad you shared yours. So much more to Great Nana Nana than her final write up. Son # 1

Terry Johnson - December 14, 2024 at 11:32 AM

CH

*“ Mary attentively taught & watched over our children in the early 80's at The Children's House (along with Shan Bennett). We appreciated Mary's passion for educating & loving kids. Rest in Peace, Mary.
Carol Heath Haston*

Carol Haston - December 06, 2024 at 07:22 PM