



Emmett Johnson

May 10, 1914 - May 10, 2009

IRON MOUNTAIN - Emmett G. Johnson, 95, of 855 East G St. in Iron Mountain, died Sunday, May 10, 2009, at ManorCare Health Services in Kingsford.

Emmett was born on Nov. 18, 1913, in Stambaugh, the son of the late Emil and Vendla (Strum) Johnson. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1931 and went on to attend Dundon Business College. Emmett then entered the Houghton Lake branch of the Civilian Conservation Corps and served as a company clerk and eventually a first sergeant. He then worked for the Michigan Highway Department in St. Ignace before taking a position at Lakeshore Inc., where he rose to manager of the Service and Supply Division, where he was employed for more than 20 years.

He met Helen Bystrom at Lake Shore .They were married on Sept. 21, 1940, in Marquette. In 1959, he worked for Champion Inc. In 1961, Emmett founded Superior Equipment ,which he owned and operated for many years. He also, along with partner, Bert Wilson, created the Johnson-Wilson Co. from the purchase of the Holcumb Scrapper Co., which manufactured underground mining equipment.

Emmett retired in 1984 and began taking flying lessons from his good friend, John Thorn. At age 77, he obtained his private pilot's license and enjoyed

flying for several years with his son, David, who is also a pilot. His last flight was on his 95 birthday. He believed that man's flight through life was sustained by the power of his knowledge and loved to solve algebra, geometry and calculus problems. He started piano lessons when he was 90 years old.

Emmett was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain and a lifetime member of the Elks Club, the United Commercial Travelers and the Masonic Lodge. He was a founding member of the Chippewa Club. He served on the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Rotary Club and Pine Grove Country Club. He served for many years on the Dickinson County Social Services Board which he also chaired. He also was a member for many years in the Pine Mountain Ski Club, which he served as president.

Emmett was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and trout fishing. He spent a large part of his free time at his cottage and son, Michael's camp. He felt his greatest achievement was his marriage to his wife, Helen. They both were loving, compassionate parents who truly cared about others. We his children all agree that we were truly blessed to have such great parents.

He is survived by four children, David (Mary) Johnson of Iron Mountain, Peter (Robin) Johnson of Iron Mountain, Jaye Louise (Rick) Conn of Sawyer Lake and Michael Johnson of Iron Mountain; four grandchildren, Christy Pendleton in Florence, Ky., Larry (Krista) Johnson of Owosso, Mich., Michael (Annie) Conn of Olney, Ill. and Christopher Conn of Lansing. He leaves five great-grandchildren, Kelsey Pendleton, Isabelle Ann Conn, Willow Helen Joy Conn, Justin Emmett Johnson, and Emma Johnson. He is also survived by several nephews and nieces, and his dear dog, Ernie.

Emmett was preceded in death by his wife, Helen on April 28, 2004, and two brothers, Clyde and George Johnson.

Friends may call from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursday at the First Lutheran Church.

Funeral services will follow Thursday at 11 a.m. at the church. Rev. James Chinery will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Pallbearers will be David, Pete and Michael Johnson, Larry Johnson, Michael Conn and Christopher Conn.

Honorary pallbearers will be William Verrette, Julie Verrette, Christine Pendleton, Rick Conn and Sharon and Robert Sherman.

Condolences to the family of Emmett G. Johnson may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

DS

“*Dear David, Peter and entire Johnson family!
Well, my dad will have another friend in heaven, a friend he often spoke about when he talked about his youth because Emmett's Mom and Ewald's Mom lived just a couple of houses apart on south Stephenson Avenue. David, I remember your dad and mom as a model couple and model parents and I always enjoyed visiting when I would bum a ride to school with you from time to time. Your Mom and Dad would always engage me in pleasant, intelligent conversation whenever I showed up at your house...yes, David and Peter you had wonderful parents and it is a priviledge to have known them. I cannot believe the number of organizations in which your Dad was involved. He was quite a man. Please accept my most sincere condolences. I hope he finds a good piano teacher and that my Dad finds an accordion and teacher and just maybe they can work up a couple of duets and play for all the big dances. May God bless you all and give you peace!*

Your friend,

David Sundquist

David Sundquist - May 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Even though I haven't kept in touch since I left for Mass last May, my friend who still lives in Iron Mtn. sent me Emmett's obituary. I was very sad to hear of your loss but very glad to have known and taken care of Emmett & Ernie for the few months before I moved. Emmett and his family, especially Jaye, Annie, Willow and Isabelle were such a help to me when I really needed it. I'm sure it had a lot to do with the kind a warm person Emmett was.

You are and have always been in my thoughts and prayers.

Love, Caren

Caren Burke - May 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ To the Johnson Family,

I have very fond memories of Emmett, especially from our skiing days. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Jerry Zacks

Jerry Zacks - May 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ We were saddened at the news, but marvel at such a full and rich life Emmett lived. Imagine, the new areas he explored so late in life. His life is an example to us all of what is possible if you have the will to try. Maya and I are thinking of you all in your commemoration of Emmett's life. He and Helen were great neighbors and welcomed us into their house anytime we were there. We'll always enjoy the memories. David & Maya

A. David Miller - May 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Dave and Mary,

I just returned back to work after the visitation and wanted to let you know how absolutely beautiful the floral arrangements were. I loved the video and photos as well.

Your dad must have been a remarkable man. I can only hope to one day achieve as much in my life as he did in his. He's certainly worth honoring. I can see now how many qualities of him are in you Dave. What wonderful gifts he has given you!

Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Loe, Stacey & Erick Weecks

Stacey Weecks - May 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Throughout everything Emmet always had a smile on his face and a laugh to share. I will always remember the pictures that were posted of him in his baseball cap coming back from his flight on his 95th birthday! Your family is really something special, and it was my pleasure to see you from time to time. My apologies for not attending the funeral, I just saw the funeral arrangements in the paper at 11 this morning. What a wonderful man and what a life he lived! What a gift from God that he is able to be with his precious Helen :) Your family is in my thoughts and prayers!

Jill, RN

Jill Anderson - May 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all of you.
How I remember what dear friends your mother and dad were with
my parents. I can still hear their happy voices as they laughed and
enjoyed each others company.
What a remarkable man Emmett was. Piano lessons at 90, indeed!
A life well lived.
May wonderful memories sustain you. And, may it help for you to
know, friends care and understand. Our love to all. Elsa & David

Elsa and David Brule - May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM