

***Memorial Service:***

11:00 a.m., Friday, August 27, 2021  
First Presbyterian Church  
Miller, South Dakota

***Minister:***

Rev. Janice Palmer

***Ushers:***

Jeff Tong & Rich Waldrop

***Musicians:***

Kim Jensen & Darcy Pugh

***Musical Selections:***

"Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone"  
"Grandpa"  
"I Can Only Imagine"

***Following the service, everyone is invited to join the family for  
lunch and fellowship in the church fellowship hall***

***Arrangements Entrusted To  
Reck Funeral Home - Miller, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)***



I N L O V I N G  
*Memory*

**Wallace M. Johnson**

September 1, 1930 - August 22, 2021

*"It's not what you take when you leave this world behind  
you. It's what you leave behind you when you go."*

~ Randy Travis, Three Wooden Crosses





WD

## Wally's Story: A man who changed the world

In her 1979 Nobel Peace Prize speech, Mother Teresa said, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." By then, Wallace (Wally) Myron Johnson was well on his way to doing exactly that.



**Darlene & Wallace, strong partners in life and marriage for over seven decades.**

He married Darlene Johnson on December 27, 1949. They shared struggles, joys, hardships, and triumphs in South Hand County for nearly 72 years. They were each strong and resolute for the other until Wally's final day. Together, they ranched and raised four children—Craig, Neal, Brenda, and Kim. If that had been all they did, Wally would have considered his life a success.

Though his pride and joy came from working at home on the ranch with his family, Wally spent decades advocating for 4-H kids and their best interests.



**Watching over his herd in 2019 and now from heaven with his son Neal.**

From 1982-1987, Wally served as the SD State Fair 4-H Beef Superintendent and 4-H Livestock Coordinator. Then, he sat at the helm of the South Dakota State Fair Commission for three years and served on that commission for a total of seven.

Born September 1, 1930 to Billy & Grace (Yost) Johnson, Wally grew up knowing the love of a large family and the sacrifices it took to keep it all together. He was an outstanding football and track athlete for Miller High School, and he was a lifelong learner.



**Wallace Johnson, 1996 SDSU Eminent Farmer of the Year**

At his core and until his death on August 22, however, Wally was a family man.



**July 10, 2007: Wally with his namesake, great-grandson Chance Wallace.**

He volunteered as a Hand County 4-H Leader for 38 years, which resulted in more than 130 young people being involved in his club. He served as a member and president of both the Hand County and South Dakota State 4-H Leaders Associations. Hand County 4-H knows him as a leader instrumental in developing the current 4-H grounds and securing support for the covered show ring. He was also a member of the SD 4-H Policy Advisory and 4-H Meat Animal Committees.

Wally loved the South Dakota State Fair as much as his grandkids loved his golf cart, camper by the 4-H show ring, and carnival ride pass!

None of Wallace's service came from a place needing recognition, but he earned it anyway. He was named SDSU Eminent Farmer in 1996, earned the Governor's Award for Volunteerism in 1992, and was recognized as an Honor Member of the Western Junior Livestock Show in addition to being awarded Outstanding Livestock Producer by the Hand County Livestock Improvement Association.

For 25 years, you could find Wally in the high seats of livestock auction barns around the state. Cattle were his passion, and the order buying business he started with his brother Clemmet brought him great joy and purpose.

The fingers he lost in farm accidents meant his grandchildren always had the best thimble hiding spot, and there were few things he enjoyed more than Darlene's "mouse hair" soup, which brought him laughter and her ire for decades. Even great-grandkids can regale you with Wally's favorite bean song.

Wally was a man of quiet service, great loyalty, and trusted friendship. He didn't believe in pedestals and certainly didn't want to be placed on one; yet, his family has often heard the only thing wrong with Wally Johnson was that he's "too honest."

Family and friends sought Wally's counsel and company until the end. Those left loving him include his wife Darlene at home on the ranch, son Craig (Louise) of Sioux Falls, daughters Brenda (Neil Duxbury) of Wessington and Kim (Jim Petik) of Keldron, daughter-in-law Janet at home on the ranch, his brother Mark (Bernadine) of San Diego, California, brother-in-law Carroll Morford of Highmore, 10 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews, and his beloved South Hand County neighbors.

Among those greeting him in heaven were his parents; son Neal; siblings and their spouses Jerald (Irene), Harold (Betty), Clemmet (Vivian), Mary (Raymond Graham); sisters-in-law Donna (Lowell Droz), Vivian (Clemmet Johnson), and Margaret Johnson-Morford; brother-in-law Earl Johnson; and special nieces Laura Graham-Eskandarion and Mary Johnson.



**Wallace with sons Neal and Craig and son-in-law Neil Duxbury**



**The Whole Fam Family one last time!**

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