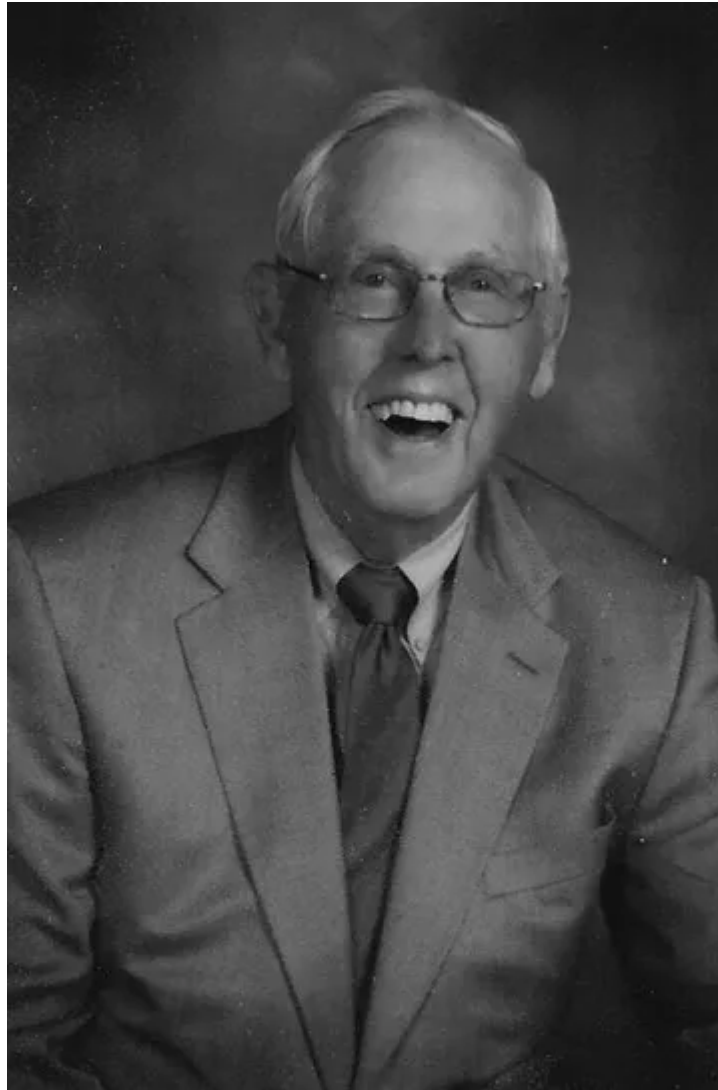


Paul Richard Johnson, 1923-2020



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Paul Richard Johnson, 97, passed away on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at his home in Columbia.

Paul was born on June 13, 1923 in Cherokee, Iowa to parents Eric and Elsie Johnson. He graduated high school from Cleghorn, Iowa in 1941, moving on to study music at Morningside College for a brief period. He ended up receiving a Dairy Management certificate at Iowa State University.

During his studies he met the love of his life, Audrey Andreasen. He followed Audrey to San Francisco where she was teaching at the time. Their love was undeniable and they married on June 10, 1944. Before starting their family, they moved back to Mount Ayr, Iowa and purchased the dairy there. They completed their family with a daughter, Linda and a son, Stephen. Paul ran the dairy for nine years, before switching occupations to develop a successful career in the insurance business in Springfield, later retiring in 1998.

Paul and Audrey were happily married for 60 years until Audrey's passing in late 2004. In 2009 Paul moved to Columbia and spent five years at the Terrace Retirement Community where he made a lot of friends.

Paul liked to share life experiences with as many people as he could. He was active in many communities, served as school board president, art museum board president, leadership roles in his church, and a mentor helping troubled teens. Traveling, dancing, singing, golfing, and playing cribbage were a few of the hobbies he loved most.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife, Audrey Johnson; parents: Eric and Elsie Johnson; siblings: Mildred, Melvin, and Wilber. He is survived by son, Stephen (Megan) Johnson of Columbia; daughter, Linda (David) Umbarger, of Omaha, Nebraska; five grandchildren: Stephanie Marksz, Julie Oelke, Brian Umbarger, Caelum Johnson, and Dane Johnson; and five great-grandchildren: Alyssa Marksz, Taylor Marksz, Nolan Oelke, Delaney Umbarger and Emmett Johnson.

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