



Clarence Johnson

February 27, 1917 - March 20, 2013

Clarence Henry Johnson passed away peacefully March 20th at his residence in K-Care, Lac du Flambeau. He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Kathleen. He is survived by his sister, Evelyn Galbraith of Seminole, Florida, and his sons: Warren (Barbara) of Mercer, Wisconsin, Alamogordo, New Mexico; and Roger (Carol) of Logan, Utah. Numerous grandchildren, nephews and nieces will miss his humor, stories, and smile. Clarence was born in 1917 in the Little Norway neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. He grew up and raised his family in Elmhurst, Illinois. He and Kathleen retired in Presque Isle, Wisconsin after working 42 years at the First National Bank of Chicago. Clarence was active on the Town Board, Lions Club and Sno Bunnies Snowmobile Club of Presque Isle, a member of the Community Presbyterian Church of Manitowish Waters, American Legion VFW Post 424 of Mercer, Wisconsin and a Mason. He and Kathleen will be remembered for being Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for Presque Isle. It was a role they both enjoyed for many years. Clarence lived an active life and began camping when it was not a popular vacation option. He recalled stories of trips to the Rocky Mountains with friends in the 1930's in a 1936 Chevrolet. His outdoor experience carried on into his married life with Kathleen and camping vacations with Warren and Roger to many National and Provincial Parks in the U.S. and Canada. He shared his knowledge of camping and the outdoors as a Scout Committee man for Troop 72 Elmhurst, Illinois. Clarence was a bomber pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War Two. He was recalled to active duty in

the Air Force during the Korean War and was stationed in French Morocco where his wife and sons were able to join him. Clarence was able to participate in the Never Forgotten Honor Flight for WWII Veterans in 2012. His family requests that any memorials to Clarence be sent to this most worthy cause: Never Forgotten Honor Flight, P.O. Box 5056, Wausau, Wisconsin 54402. Clarence will be missed and this is best expressed in a Haiku by his good friend at K-Care, Richard Wechter:

Goodbye our good friend
Careful guide on long life road
Clarence, you leave holes

Tribute Wall

PM

“ *Uncle Clare was a star of our happy childhood memories of fun and loving Johnson family get-togethers and camping trips. He was one-of-a-kind with his great stories and bear hugs. He and Auntie Kay were wonderful models of dedication to family and each other. Thanks, Uncle Clare. We'll all miss you. Love, Patti and Terri*

Patti Albaugh and Terri McKinney - May 07, 2013 at 09:18 AM

AV

“ Clarence went through flight training in WWII with my uncle Art Herrmann. Although Art would get CH and the other "fly boys" together from time to time over the years that followed, CH and Marty Heck were without doubt Art's closest buddies. Clare, despite being the oldest - and the one the others sort of looked up to in the service because he was the oldest - was the last of the three to leave us.

At the weddings of Art's kids and at the Herrmann reunions each summer, CH and Kay were always there. And the rest of us always looked forward to their coming too ... and NOT just because of Kay's great apple pies either.

Even after Art passed in 2001, Clare and Kay continued to come.

I think it would be fair to say that CH was a bit of a character. If he was sitting down while relating some story, he'd often punctuate a point by raising his right arm with a clenched fist and shake it ... not at anyone in particular, but just to add emphasis to his point.

When I wrote a recollection of Art's life after his passing, CH was free to relate small incidents that happened.

And it made me smile to hear at the retirement home there in Minoqua that Clare was playing some game ... I seem to recall it was dominoes ... with a several women in a group he called "Three Gals and a Dude" or some such.

Good Bye, old fellow. It was great getting to know you, even if it was just for those brief meetings at various Herrmann events.

Art Vaughan - May 07, 2013 at 09:18 AM

DU

“ Uncle Clare was one of a kind. He lived life to the fullest. I think this was because he had to fight polio as a young adult and won. I'll always remember the visits to his and Auntie Kays house in Elmhurst, trips up to the cottage, the stories of the "Free Loaders" (and meeting some once in a while) and that dang green trailer that was used by everyone including our family. I hear that trailer is still around. I remember that sail boat he was building down at a building in Chicago. We use to go down and help with it from time to time. To bad it never got launched. I think he did everything on his bucket list but that. So now Uncle Clare you can sail off into the sunset with your sweet heart Auntie Kay... We will all miss you!
Love from one of your many favorite nieces, Diane

Diane Urban - May 07, 2013 at 09:18 AM