

So God Made a Farmer's Wife

And on the 9th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "The farmer needs a caretaker".

So God made a farmer's wife.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, feed the farmer, work all day in town, come home to work alongside her farmer, make supper, and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board".

So God made a farmer's wife.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to keep up with the farmer yet gentle enough to cuddle a newborn baby. Somebody to run for parts, help in the fields, move trucks, deliver meals, look the farmer in the eyes and tell him 'I love you and the life we've built' – and mean it".

So God made a farmer's wife.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with their newborn baby. And raise him right. I need somebody who can use a wrench and know where to find it, doesn't mind getting dirty, who can remove stains, and keep a house clean. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish her forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from her town job, taking care of the kids, and fieldwork, put in another seventy-two hours".

So God made a farmer's wife.

God had to have somebody willing to cancel appointments and change plans and be ready in a minutes notice and yet will never stop and complain about this way of life.

So God made a farmer's wife.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clean out bins and heave bails, yet gentle enough to raise kids and bottle feed calves and tend to the house, who will drive the tractor and pray to God about the weather. It had to be somebody who'd be able to handle the house and field work and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and wash and dry and cook and clean and remember scheduled events and feed the farmer and stock the cupboards and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.

"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when her daughter says she wants to spend her life 'doing what mom does.'"

So God made a farmer wife's.

In Loving Memory **Barbara Ann Johnson**

Born to Roy & Lyla Tracey
September 9, 1943 ~ Williston, North Dakota

Returned to Her Heavenly Father
August 14, 2018 ~ Bismarck, North Dakota

Mass of Christian Burial
Saturday, August 18, 2018 at 10:30 am
St. Michael's Catholic Church
Ray, North Dakota

Officiating
Father Cory Nelson

Reader
Pastor Steve Anderson
Bruce Johnson

Gift Bearers
Jace Caldwell Addyson Johnson
Brayden Johnson Charley Johnson

Music
Dave Rust & Shellann Munson ~ Duet
Amanda Johnson ~ Violin & Vocals
Michelle Dolan ~ Accompanist

Pallbearers
Thad Caldwell Luke Darigan
Vince Erhardt Michael Tracey
Steven Tracey Jordan Vance

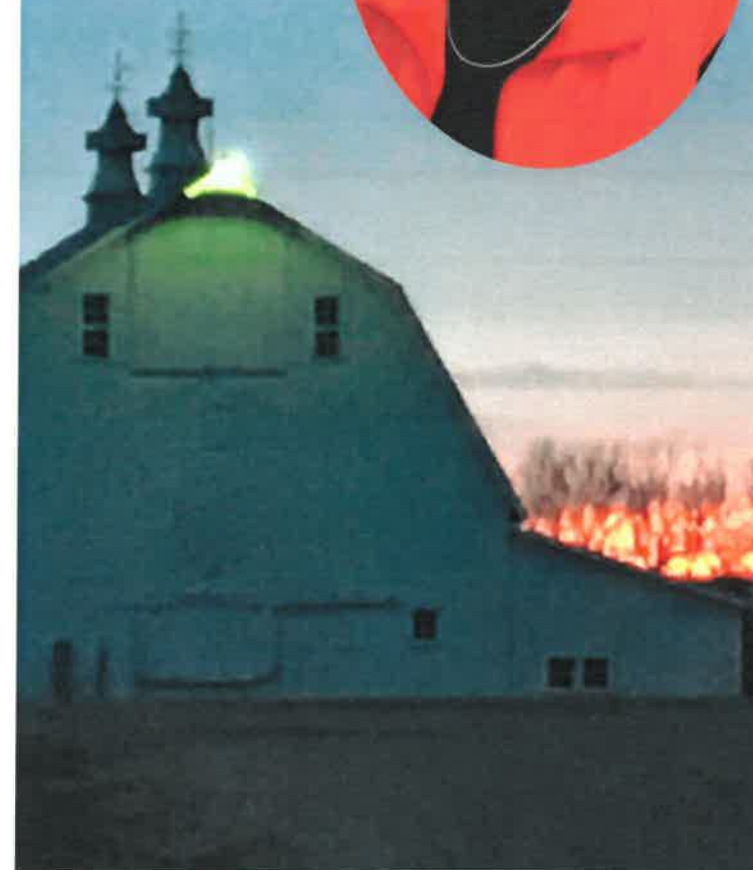
Final Resting Place
Wheelock Cemetery ~ Wheelock, North Dakota

Arrangements By
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home of Williston, ND

In Loving Memory Of

Barbara Johnson

September 9, 1943 - August 14, 2018





Barbara Ann (Tracey) Johnson, 74, of rural Ray, N.D., passed away August 14, 2018 at Sanford Medical Center in Bismarck after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

Barbara was born September 9, 1943 to Roy and Lyla Tracey in Williston, N.D. Barbara grew up on a farm close to Wildrose, N.D., later moving into Wildrose with her family, where she graduated from high school. Barb went on to work in Williston for MDU. Later she worked for the ASCS offices in Williams and Divide counties, as well as in the Towner, N.D. office for a stint.

Barbara married M. Keith Johnson of rural Ray January 22, 1971. Together, they farmed, ranched and raised their three children.

Barb's first love was her family and, as their No. 1 cheerleader, she rarely missed attending the events of her children and grandchildren. She took pride in her skills in the kitchen and made sure no one ever left her table hungry. Every year, she began her holiday baking in October, preparing batch after batch of lefse, krumkake, buns and other tasty treats to share with family and friends.

She was always there to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. She routinely visited ailing or elderly friends and would think nothing of going out of her way to help. Barbara will forever be remembered as a selfless person, always putting the needs of others before her own.

However, on occasion, she would take a "trip south" and slip away to New Town with a friend, where she enjoyed trying her luck on the slot machines. She always seemed to return home money ahead. She also enjoyed weekly visits over dinner at Senior Citizens in Epping, as well as lunch get-togethers with her closest and dearest friends.

Barb was a member of the past Williams County Homemakers group and she did books for the Wheelock Cemetery. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ray, where she served as an Alter Society member, in which she helped prepare and serve meals for funerals and clean the church. She also regularly attended Epping Lutheran Church with her husband through the years. Barb often volunteered her time at Epping Lutheran as well. In 1998, Keith and Barb were honored as the Williams County Agriculturalists of the Year.

Barbara was patient, kind-hearted and genuinely cared for those around her. Even through her own medical hardships the past 10 years, her No. 1 priority remained making others feel special and welcomed. Barbara was the rock of her entire family and will be missed dearly.

Barbara is survived by: Her husband, M. Keith Johnson of rural Ray; children and grandchildren, Brian, Erin, Addyson & Brayden Johnson of rural Ray; Tracey, Thad and Jace Caldwell of Rapid City, S.D.; and Bruce, Amanda and Charley Johnson of rural Williston; sisters, Patricia (Merle) Nylander of Minot; Lyla Marie (Gene) Himmelspach of Mandan; Mary (Craig) Joraanstad of Washington, Illinois; sisters-in-law, Ellayne Tracey, Debra Tracey, Emily Darigan; and brother-in-law, Rodney Johnson. She is also survived by many special nieces and nephews and special friend Arline Larson.

Barbara was preceded in death by: Her parents, Roy and Lyla Tracey; brothers, Raymond, Joseph and James; mother and father-in-law, Esther & Adolph Johnson; and many dear friends.

