



Russell D. "Rusty" Johnson

February 9, 1948 - October 20, 2018

Russell "Rusty" Dee Johnson, 70 of Greeley passed away on Saturday, October 20, 2018.

He was born in Chadron, NE on February 9, 1948 to Frank and Bernice Miller Johnson. He grew up in rural Alliance, NE. He began his education as the only kindergartner in a one-room schoolhouse. Rusty was involved in 4-H and was passionate about farming, livestock, hunting, and fishing. He graduated with a degree in Animal Science from University of Nebraska in Lincoln where he met his wife Naomi Kuttner. In 1972 they relocated to Greeley, CO where he managed a dairy farm for 19 years. Rusty then worked for Ecolab until his retirement in 2015.

Rusty spent his retirement years building a cabin outside of Lyons, CO, volunteering at Beth Israel Synagogue, taking daily hikes in the woods with Naomi, reading, fly tying, listening to music, and spending countless days fly fishing on the Colorado rivers with his dog Guster. Rusty is a proud father of his two favorite adventure and fly fishing partners, Ben and Bodie Johnson. His kindness knew no boundaries and if you were a stranger to him, you wouldn't be for long as he made everyone feel like family.

Rusty is survived by his wife Naomi, his two sons Ben and Bodie (Sarah Foss Johnson), and grandson, Miller; sisters Lillie Lee, Karen Duggan, and Anita Marin.

A special thanks to the Greeley Fire and EMS teams. A private ceremony will be held in Rusty's honor at a later date.

Please honor Rusty's legacy by supporting one of the following organizations: St. Vrain Anglers Trout Unlimited or the Beth Israel Congregation. Donations to either organizations can be sent in care of Moser Funeral Service, 3501 S. 11th Avenue, Evans, Colorado 80620.

Comments



“ Rusty and my husband, John Potmesil, were classmates in Alliance. Our neighbor hosted an adult, Marita, a dairy farm girl from Finland, through a 4-H program years ago and John had me call Rusty while he was on the dairy farm in Greeley to ask for a visit with Marita. I had never met Rusty so he was ‘new’ to both Marita and myself. Rusty couldn’t have been more gracious to us both showing us around the operation and answering Marita’s questions with humor and warmth-exceptional experience for us both. Marita was so very appreciative knowing how precious work hours are on a farm.
I’m glad to know Rusty had leisure time after retirement to make his moments count for his family and doing things that gave him pleasure.
The day glimpse I had with Rusty makes me know how much he is loved & missed. –
Elaine Potmesil

Elaine Potmesil - November 07, 2018 at 06:40 PM



“ So very saddened to learn of the passing of Rusty. We have so many beautiful memories of our time in Greeley as we got to know Rusty and Naomi. We felt so loved and appreciated by both of you. You turned a challenging time into times that were joyful and a blessing. We think of you often. Naomi, please know that you both are in our prayers during this most difficult time. God bless.

Bill and Sandi Reno

Bill Reno - November 06, 2018 at 03:41 PM



“ Dear Naomi, Ben, Bodie and Sarah,
I was shocked and so very saddened to read of Rusty's death. How well I know the pain and huge sense of loss that you and all your family are feeling!! Rusty was always so much fun and I had no idea he loved fly-fishing. He and John would have enjoyed doing that together. Certainly, our time together through Lamaze Classes is something I will never forget. You and Rusty did a great job. John and I were total failures! I will miss him so much and always remember seeing the two of you at the concert last fall. Naomi, as a new widow, I can and am willing to meet with you or talk with you at any time. This is a long journey and it's also a very personal journey. Your sons will be an enormous support. I am sending a gift in Rusty's memory to the Beth Israel Congregation. Much love to all of you, Charmaine

Charmaine Coppom - November 03, 2018 at 05:49 PM



“ Naomi, Ben, and Bodie: John and I are so very sad about Rusty's death. We remember his ever present kindness and the way he always greeted us with a huge smile and some quirky quip or little story accompanied by abundant laughter. We send love, and are holding you in our hearts. Jane and John Loftis

Jane Loftis - October 30, 2018 at 02:36 PM



“ Dear Naomi and family, I send you my deepest condolences. Cherish your memories. Sincerely, Nelda Mickens

Nelda Mickens - October 28, 2018 at 08:19 AM



“ May all mighty God help you through this shocking time. Hold music close.

Ila Leavy - October 26, 2018 at 01:33 PM



“ Naomi, I too am saddened to learn of Rusty's passing. I grew up in the Sandhills of Nebraska in much the same way as did he. Hope that means I turn out as well as Rusty as a human being. While I didn't have the same experiences as those of others who have written so beautifully here, he and I did run races together which I always found fun and rewarding. So here is to an eternity of comfort and joy and a pair of fast shoes. With respect to you and your family, Gary Karre.

Gary Karre - October 26, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Rusty's passing. He was a great and kind person. Naomi, you are now in the same club that I am. I wish you and your family well.

Jana Price - October 25, 2018 at 01:33 PM



“ We knew Rusty and his family from our years together watching the boys in Greeley Bootleggers soccer. We traveled to tournaments up and down the front range. The family were also great patients in our dental practice back in the day. Will miss Rusty and his great stories.
The Sydneys

Gil Sydney - October 25, 2018 at 08:31 AM



“ I was saddened and shocked to hear of the passing of Rusty Johnson. I had fished a beautiful Montana river with him just a couple of weeks before his passing and he seemed fine as his fishing skills were fun to watch. He was so upbeat as he was finishing up his productive trip to Montana and on his way home to Colorado. It is sad to think this time spent on a secluded river was the last time I will ever see Rusty.....I will miss you my fishing friend.....Jim Henderson (Montana)

James Henderson - October 24, 2018 at 07:40 PM



“ Nomi, we are all so saddened to hear of this great and untimely loss. Thinking so much of you and your family now and praying for comfort and strength. Monte and Linda

Monte Lund - October 24, 2018 at 05:25 PM



“ Ben, Bodie, and Naomi, I just want you to know that Mike and I are thinking of you and your family, so sorry for your loss, no words, may his memories live on in your hearts, and little things he did that you will miss. Sherry and Mike Cantonwine

Cheryl Cantonwine - October 27, 2018 at 09:42 AM



“ I knew Rusty and his family from childhood. We were farm neighbors north of Alliance and went to country school together. Rusty was a kind and gentle person. Though it has been years since I saw any of the family I have such good memories of those times and our 4-H experiences. My sympathy and thoughts go out to all the Johnson family.

Brenda (Walker) Stroman (daughter of Bubs and Marge)

Brenda Stroman - October 24, 2018 at 10:05 AM



“ Rusty is just one of those people that is fun to be around. He was caring, candid, proud and genuine.
I grew up with the Johnson Family. We celebrated many New Year's together at our home in Alliance or at the Johnson farm.
I learned to hunt with Rusty, Frank, and my dad, Wally.
We were always around for wheat harvest. Rusty taught me how to set irrigation pipe for the corn.
We all watched Rusty play football and wrestle. He played football with my brother in law Chris Marlatt.
I remember my first time as a kid getting to meet Naomi when she came out to the Johnson farm when she and Rusty traveled there from Lincoln.
Trips to Chadron State Park, Whitney and Walgreen Lakes, and of course fly fishing on the river as a kid, what a great time and great memories.
He stayed close in contact with my folks, Wally and Dorothy. He met my children and my grandchildren. Rusty and Naomi came to a ceremony in Greeley a few years ago when my dad received a special medal from the Republic of South Korea for his service in the Korean war.
Rusty, you will be missed greatly.
Blessings to Naomi and the boys and to all of the Johnson family; Lily, Karen, and Anita and their loved ones.
With all of our love,
Ken and Nancy Kirchhoff and family

Ken Kirchhoff - October 24, 2018 at 09:57 AM



“ Rusty was a good man, happy to have known him if even just a little bit. Thinking of you and your family Naomi. God Bless!

John Royer - October 24, 2018 at 07:51 AM