

OBITUARY
Gerald 'Jerry' Johnson
Mar 27, 2015



RAPID CITY | Gerald Ralph "Jerry" Johnson, 77, died March 24, 2015, at Fountain Springs Nursing Home.

Gerald was born Oct. 16, 1937, in Rochester, MN, to Ralph and Luella Johnson. He graduated from John Marshall High School. He entered the U.S. Marine Corps, stationed for a time at Camp Pendleton, serving in 1960-61 in Vietnam, and doing a tour in Okinawa, Japan. He did a variety of jobs, mostly in the food service and hospitality industries. After moving to Rapid City in 1974, he worked at Happy Chef, the Hotel Alex Johnson, Frontier Airlines and United Airlines, Albertsons, and was concessions manager at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center for many years before moving away.

He met his first wife, Joyce Peterson, in Rochester and they married in 1959. To that union were born two daughters, Dawn and DeeAnn. Joyce passed away in 1977, in Rapid City, and the following year, Gerald married Carol (Gall) O'Brien and became the devoted stepfather to her two children, Kim and Mike. During their marriage, they lived in Rapid City, Yakima, WA, Houston, TX, and Beaumont, TX. Carol passed away in 2004, and he moved back to Houston, TX, where he met his present wife, Mary (Bell) Johnson. In 2012, they moved to Rapid City, where he worked at the Southside Wal-Mart in the sporting goods department, selling two of his most favorite things, guns and fishing gear. He was an avid fisherman and an excellent marksman. He also loved to collect coins and to garden.

Grateful for sharing his life are his wife, Mary; his children: Dawn Pence, Rapid City, and her children, Nicole, Shaina, and Kelsey; DeeAnn (Todd) Dietrich, Rapid City, and their children, Nick and Samantha; Kim (Rusty) Fisher, The Woodlands, TX, and their children, Cameron and Rachel; and Mike (Tamy) O'Brien, Pearland, TX, and their children, Jordan, Joe, Jessica, Meaghan, Ericka, and Brittany; five great-grandchildren; his sister, Sharon (Lewie) Larsen; his brother, Jon (Carol) Johnson; a niece; and numerous nephews.

Gerald was preceded in death by his wives, Joyce and Carol; and his parents, Ralph and Luella Johnson.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home, with Chaplain (Ret.) Herb B. Cleveland officiating.

Inurnment will be a private family ceremony at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, with military honors provided by the Rushmore VFW Post 1273 and the U.S. Marines Honor Guard.

Condolences may be sent to the family at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home, 2700 Jackson Blvd., Rapid City, SD.