

# Gay Johnson

May 13, 1934 - May 1, 2009

Gay Johnson went home to be with her Savior on May 1, 2009 after a year-long battle with cancer. She passed away surrounded by her family in her Ventura residence, just days before her 75th birthday.



Born Della Gay Davidson on May 13, 1934 in Hollywood, California, she was the eldest of 4 daughters. As an active member of the class of 1952 of Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles, she graduated as valedictorian and winner of a Bank of America achievement award in Liberal Arts. Gay attended the University of California, Santa Barbara College for two years, where she was affiliated with the Chi Omega sorority. She married the love of her life, Robert Johnson in June of 1955, and they settled in Ventura to raise their family of 5 children.

One of the many legacies from Gay's life is in the area of early childhood education. In 1981, she became the founder and director of TLC Preschool in Ventura. Over her 25 years of leadership, the school has earned four accreditations for the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Part of the school's excellent reputation in the early childhood community is due to their example of mainstreaming children with special needs, a vision and priority set by Gay from early on in her career. Her leadership and influence extended beyond her immediate community through her roles as mentor, workshop presenter, NEAYC validator, and member of numerous boards at the county, tri-county and state levels.

Other passions that Gay was known for included collecting miniatures, crafting, knitting and sewing as seen in the multitude of gifts, costumes and clothing made for family and friends over the years. She also had a great love of travel, and had the opportunity to visit over 10 different countries during her lifetime.

She is survived by her husband Robert Johnson, her children (Mark, Michael, Matthew, Melanie and Martin), their spouses, and 13 grandchildren; her sisters Merry Henry of Oregon and Bonny Lamb of Idaho as well as many other family members and friends.

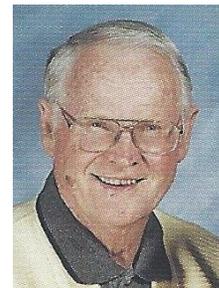
She is preceded in death by her sister Sunny Gilbert of Tehachapi, who passed away January 29, 1991.

A celebration of Gay's life will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church on May 16 at 2pm.

# Robert W. Johnson

July 9, 1926 - February 14, 2012

Robert W. Johnson went home to be with his Savior on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. He passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Ventura after 85 wonderful years of serving his Lord, his family, and his church.



Bob was born on July 9, 1926 in Chino, California. He was the youngest of six children born to Elmer and Selma Johnson, Swedish immigrants. While at Chino High School, Bob enjoyed participating in every seasonal sport. Bob graduated midway through his senior year due to being called to serve his Country in the U.S. Navy in 1945. After his service in the military, he attended Chaffey Junior College, Ontario for 2 years, Colorado University for 1 year, and then the University of California at Santa Barbara where he completed his teaching credential. It was at a UCSB dance where Dad first met his bride to be. He spied Gay standing across the dance floor with her friend. He said to his buddy, "I'll take the tall one." That was the beginning of a lifelong love. He married his sweetheart in June of 1955, and settled in Ventura to raise their family of 5 children.

Bob began teaching at Loma Vista School in Ventura, moved to spend the majority of his career at Montalvo Elementary School, and finished his last few years teaching at De Anza Middle School. He earned his Master's in Education Administration from Northridge in 1961. After completing his teaching career in 1985, he started Johnson Gardening Service. His love for working outdoors was developed early in his childhood, having grown up on a peach ranch with daily chores of collecting eggs, pruning trees, and harvesting peaches to be sold at their roadside stand. Bob never really retired; he continued to help maintain the grounds at Trinity Lutheran Church and TLC preschool. Up until January 2012, after a few chores, you could find Bob enjoying a morning cup of coffee with friends at TLC where he has been a member since 1954.

He is survived by his children (Mark, Michael, Matthew, Melanie and Martin), their spouses, and 14 grandchildren. He is also survived by an older brother Karl Johnson of San Marcos, and his twin brother Raymond Johnson of Hemet, as well as many other family members and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Gay, his 2 sisters, Ruth Johnson and Marian Wagner, and his brother Kenneth Johnson who died as a child.