



Lorene Esther Johnson

October 23, 1923 - June 27, 2015

Lorene "Screeno" Esther (Griess) Johnson entered into rest on June 27, 2015, at the Sutton Community Home in Sutton, NE at the age of 91.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2015, at the Federated Church in Sutton, NE with Rev. Mary Scott officiating. Interment will follow at the Sutton Cemetery in Sutton, NE. Visitation will be Tuesday, June 30, 2015, from 1 - 8 p.m., at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE.

Memorial contributions may be made in care of the family.

She was born on a farm north of Sutton to Alfred and Frieda (Engelhardt) Griess on October 23, 1923. She attended Sutton High School and graduated in 1940. After high school she attended Normal Teacher Training in Kearney, and taught in several area one-room schools.

During World War II she worked at the Navy Ammunition Depot near Hastings, NE as an office clerk. After the War she met and married Rolland Johnson from Harvard, a veteran and farmer. They were married on March 15, 1950 in Saronville during a blizzard.

They were blessed with three daughters, Deborah, Janis and Becky. Rolland preceded her in death on December 11, 1998.

Lorene was a dedicated homemaker and had many talents. She loved to paint, knit, and practice various other needlecrafts. She also started a cake baking and decorating business from her home and provided cakes for many friends' and relatives' weddings, graduations, and special occasions. She also loved gardening and flowers and at the age of 57 opened a floral shop in Sutton with her daughter Deb called Plant Potpourri. They owned the floral shop until 1990.

She was an active member of the Saronville Methodist Women's Fellowship and later the Sutton Federated Church Women's Circle. She was a 4-H club leader for many years, a member the Better Homes and Gardens Extension Club, and the Sutton American Legion Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters and her husband Rolland.

Survivors include daughters Deb and husband Bob Unterseher of Sutton, Jan and husband John McKenzie of Sutton, and Becky and husband Chip Cary of Goodyear, AZ. In addition, she is survived by four grandsons: Andy and wife Becky Unterseher of Lincoln, Nolan Unterseher of Sutton, Brady Unterseher of Sutton, Nathan and wife Jan Jaree McKenzie of Sutton, and one step-granddaughter Jenny and husband Casey Diers of River Forest, Ill; 6 great-grandchildren: Isaiah and Claire Unterseher, Mason McKenzie and Jentry Stenger, Adelynn Unterseher and Fiona Diers.

She also was an "adopted" OMAH (grandma) to Steffie Bosman from Breda in the Netherlands, an exchange student who stayed with the McKenzie's in 2001-2002, who said she was "a true grandma for me while staying in Sutton."

Her sister Helen Nuss of Minnesota and brother Jerry and wife Rosalie Griess

of Indiana also survive her, and many other relatives and friends.

Tribute Wall

RN

“ Aunt Lorene was the best! She always tried to see that I found some pheasants when we were hunting. I remember her at the family picnics every summer, we had such fun. We stopped and seen here in Sutton on our way back to AZ last fall and we had a very good visit, and am very glad that we did.

We miss her.

Sympathy to the family!

Our sympathy to the family!

Ronald Nuss - July 06, 2015 at 03:27 PM

SG

“ John and Jan:
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Even though it's part of the Circle of Life, it's still hard to lose a parent! It appears that your mother was a very beautiful, loving and talented person...hmmm - kinda sounds like her daughter :)
Please know that Dave and I send our love and we hope reuniting with your mother's family and friends will bring you comfort.
With sympathy, Sheri

Sheri McKenzie Giesbrecht - June 30, 2015 at 01:58 PM

AJ

“ So sorry to hear about Aunt Lorene...she was such a sweet an nice person...always enjoyed being around her...so miss all the family...would love to see the Becky an Jan someday...have seen Deb a few times...so sorry for the loss of your mother...Hugs I know my Mom Helen will be upset to hear of her passing...

Arlis Jackson - June 30, 2015 at 11:45 AM

SR

“ Dear Debbie, Jan and Becky,
This is a real loss for us all! Aunt Lorene's smiling, laughing face is one I will never forget. She was a part of our lives from the time Jo and I were little girls. I remember so vividly one visit when we made plaster of paris animals using rubber molds. When they dried we all painted them together! Aunt Lorene didn't get upset or impatient and gave her memorable ripple of laughter when something went wrong. Heaven will be a better place now that she is there.

Also, Dear Aunt Helen, I am so sorry for your loss since I know how close you were and I know there will be a joyful meeting for you both in Heaven. You are such an inspiration as well.

Much love, Sally
Sally

Sally Mae Sandford Reeves - June 30, 2015 at 09:26 AM

KK

“ I have such fond memories of Aunt Lorene, from visits to the farm when we were young city kids, to our wonderful visits with her each time we passed through town in recent years, when she would welcome us, along with our beloved Pipa. We especially loved hearing Aunt Lorene and Aunt Helen telling their infamous mouse story, and they would laugh as though they were still those young sisters living that moment again. Oh, how we loved laughing with her! How we will miss Aunt Lorene.

Deb, Jan, & Becky, we are so sorry for your loss.

Karen Karshneski - June 29, 2015 at 06:30 PM

PS

“ I remember always looking forward to visiting Aunt Lorene on the farm. She was always so full of warmth and joy....such a generous soul as well. She will be greatly missed, but forever remembered. My heart and condolences go out to everyone whose life was touched by Lorene, but especially to my cousins Deb, Jan and Becky and their families.

Sending much love and comfort from the west coast...

Peggy Schulz, Los Angeles, CA

Peggy Schulz - June 29, 2015 at 01:27 PM

JW

“ Wish I could be there, Deb. I remember your mom well before she was even married. When I was probably five, she went on a fishing trip to WI with our family and other grandparents. My grandpa didn't look when he cast his hook and caught her in the seat of her pants (old family story). She also did crafts with Sally and I in your grandma's kitchen when we were visiting and she was a teacher. Like Joanne, I remember when she and Aunt Helen would laugh!

Jo Walker - June 29, 2015 at 12:10 PM

JD

“ So sorry for your loss. Aunt Lorraine was a joy to be around. I have many happy memories of her. I remember how much my mom and her would laugh whenever they were together. She will be missed.

Joanne Dietrich - June 29, 2015 at 09:24 AM

KG

“ Aunt Lorene was a beautiful lady, inside and out, and she blessed my life. I will not forget her love of story telling at the family reunions. It was always fun to spend time with her and I will miss her. Love to Deb & Bob, Jan & John, Becky & Chip and the family. I wish I could be there with you this week. {{HUGS}}

Kathy Griess - June 29, 2015 at 07:49 AM