

Even as she struggled, she felt on impulse to move her wings.

The warmth of the sun soon dried the moisture from the new body. She moved her wings again and suddenly found herself above the water. She had become a dragon fly.

Swooping and dipping in great curves, she flew through the air. She felt exhilarated in the new atmosphere. By and by, she happily landed on a lily pad to rest. The it was that she chanced to look below to the bottom of the pond. Why she was right above her old friends the water bugs. There they were, scurrying about, just as she had been doing some time before.

The she remembered the promise: "The next one of us who climbs up the lily stalk will come back and tell where they went and why."

Without thinking, she darted down. Suddenly, she hit the surface of the water.

"I can't return!" she said in dismay. "At least I tried, but I can't keep my promise. Even if I could go back, not one of the water bugs would know me in my new body. I guess I'll just have to wait until they become dragonflies, too. Then they'll understand what happened to me and where I went."

And the dragonfly winged off happily into her wonderful new world of sun and air.



Alton D. Johnson, age 77, has laid his electrical tool pouch down for good and gone to be with the true "Light of the World".

Alton was the youngest of 6 children born to Ed and Anna Johnson in Grafton ND on November 23, 1945. At age 2, they moved from Hoople, ND to a farm in rural Detroit Lakes. He graduated from Detroit Lakes High School in 1964. That same summer, he met the "spark" of his life, Kathy, while delivering laundry to their business, Pladsen's Dash Inn, near Dunvilla. His teen years included jobs at Klomstad's Standard and Deep Rock. On February 4, 1966. Nobody was "shocked" that he was on his way to boot camp in San Diego, CA. he started his electrical career at Port Hueneme, CA A School. His travels thereafter included two, 8-month deployments to Vietnam. In December of 1968, the song "Homeward Bound" became a reality and on March 22, 1969, the second ring was added to Kathy's hand. After a brief stay in San Antonio, they moved to McPherson, KS. However, there was a "surge" to return to Detroit Lakes. There he began his 41-year career in electrical field. He was 10 years with Ratz/Mark's Electric, upon acquiring his master electrical license in 1981, he began his 21 years of teaching the electrical program at the DL Vo-tech. After 10 years with the City of Detroit Lakes, he retired in 2012.

His "flow" of energy was evident in his copious rounds of golf (achieving a hole in one), bowling on several leagues, coaching little league, playing softball in young and not so young leagues, mostly with the Anderson, Foltz and Lyon teams. He was a Chevy man – especially the 1955 and enjoyed car races in Glyndon, watching NASCAR, the Vikings and the Twins. Lawn mowing was an enjoyable task for him, making different grass patterns each time with his trusty push mower. His love of flowers and planting them was digging into God's good earth. He was proud when presented with the Beautification Award. However, a bragger nor boastful man he was not! He was a gentleman and a gentle man.

His faith kept him "grounded" and began at Lund, continued at Grace, and then United Methodist Church. He served on many committees, in many capacities (not capacitors). He served on the Board of Directors at the Detroit Lakes Boy's Club, was a member of the Eagles and American Legion for over 50 years. He further drove the business route for the Mpls. Tribune every Sunday for 21 years.

His love for family was evident and they admired, respected and loved him so much in return. Kevin and Kim were blessed to have a special Dad, and grandchildren Lauren, Kate, Adam and Thomas enjoyed many Nana & Papa camps and many games of 1-2-3.

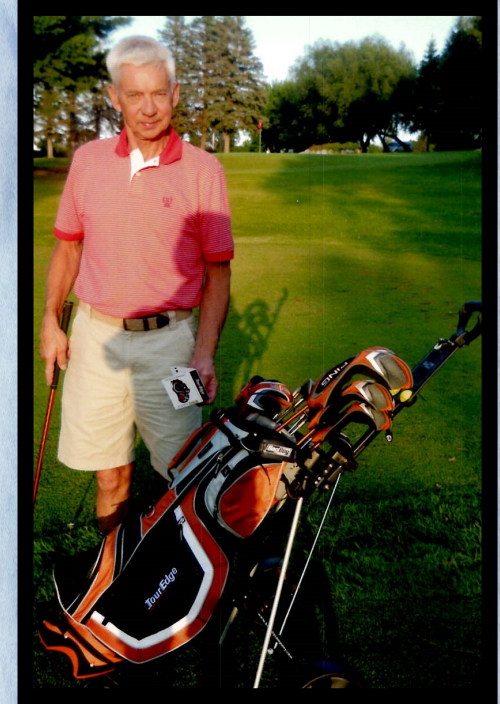
There were travels enjoyed-Michigan, Las Vegas, Rhode Island, The family Disney Cruise to the Bahamas, Mississippi, Florida and winter trips to Mesa to visit Gordy and Betty, who always entertained with places to sight see.

Left to celebrate his well lived life are his loving wife Kathy, son Kevin and wife Susie and their daughters Lauren and Kate, and daughter Kim and husband John Glunz and their sons Adam and Thomas. Many cousins, nephews, nieces, friends and special friends.

Those he will join in heaven are his parents, brothers: Doug, Charlie and Gordy; sisters Bev Bulik and Faye Evavold and godson Chris.

His light, love and legacy will live on in our hearts.

"Alty" 1945-2023



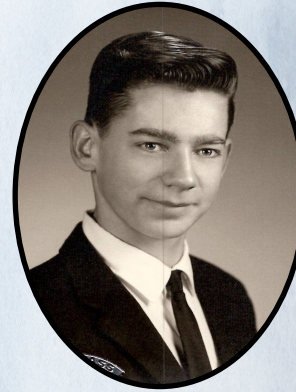
Those we love must someday pass beyond our present sight...

Must leave us and the world we know without their radiant light.

But we know that like a candle their lovely light will shine to brighten up another place more perfect... more divine.

And in the realm of heaven where they shine so warm and bright, our loved ones live forevermore in God's eternal light.

Celebrating a Blessed Life
Alton D. Johnson



November 11, 1945 ~ Grafton, North Dakota
September 25, 2023 ~ Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Memorial Service

Saturday, October 14, 2023 ~ 2:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Officiant

Pastor Lisa Braun

Accompanist

Paul Heisler

Vocals

United Methodist Church Choir

Doug Neuman

Readers

Lauren Johnson & Kate Johnson

Eulogists

Roger Moltzen, Beth Kelly, Lauren Johnson
& Kate Johnson

Urn Bearers

Papa's Beloved Grandchildren:

Lauren Johnson, Kate Johnson, Adam Schaffer
& Thomas Glunz

Interment

United Methodist Memorial Garden

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Military Honors

Lakes Region Veteran's Color Guard

Down below the surface of a quiet pond lived a little colony of water bugs. They were a happy colony, living far from the sun. For many months they were very busy, scurrying over the soft mud on the bottom of the pond.

They did notice that every once in a while one of their colony seemed to lose interest in going about with the other water bugs. Clinging to the stem of a pong lily, they would gradually move out of site and were seen no more.

"Look!" said one of the water bugs to another. "One of our colony is climbing up the lily stalk. Where do you suppose he is going?"

Up, up, up their friend went slowly. Even as they watched he disappeared from their sight. His friends waited and waited, but he didn't return.

"That's funny!" said one water bug to another. "Wasn't he happy here?" asked a second water bug. "Where do you suppose he went?" wondered a third. No one had an answer. They were greatly puzzled.

Finally one of the water bugs, a leader in the colony, gathered her friends together. "I have an idea. The next one of us who climbs up the lily stalk must promise to come back and tell us where they went and why."

"We promise," they all said solemnly.

One spring day, not long after, the very water bug who had suggested the plan found herself climbing up the lily stalk. Up, up, up she went. Before she knew what was happening, she had broken through the surface of the water, and fallen onto the broad, green lily pad above.

When she awoke, she looked about with surprise. She couldn't believe what she saw. A startling change had come to her body. Her movement revealed four silver wings and a long tail.

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