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Joan G. Johnson, 59

May 19, 1939 - Dec. 17, 1998

HARLAN - Joan G. Johnson, daughter of Eldred and Bernice (Brooks) Hesla, was born May 19, 1939 in Vermillion SD. She attended grade school in Scotland, SD and was a graduate of Scotland High School. After her graduation from high school, she attended the University of South Dakota and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in art and music education.

June 24, 1960, Joan married Larye Johnson at the United Methodist Church in Scotland, SD. They became the parents of two children, Cindy and Brad. She taught first grade in Ft. Pierre, SD from 1960 until 1962. In 1962 through 1965, she taught Kindergarten in Melvin. She and Larye then moved to Harlan where she taught kindergarten for a year and then became the middle school art teacher until May of 1996. Her greatest joy was teaching children to express their feelings through art. Joan died Dec. 17, 1998 at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs at age 59 years, 6 months and 29 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Elmer Johnson and her sister-in-law, Donna Mae Zeeb. Survivors include her husband Larye Johnson of Harlan; her children, Cindy (Dean) Lefeber of Harlan, Brad Johnson (Michelle) of San Antonio, TX; her grandchildren, Sara and Tyler Lefeber of Harlan; her sister, Barbara (Larry) Bloes of Sac City and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 21, 1998 at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Burial was in the Rosehill Cemetery in Scotland, SD with Jim Rembold, Dick Behl, Victor Bush, Scott Rembold, Larry Auch, Jeff Guthmiller, and Marty Guthmiller honorary casket bearers. Casket Bearers were Michael Powell, Pat Murphy, Chad Ellsworth, Patrick Conner, Curt Jensen and Scott Guthmiller. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.