

Richard "Dick" Johnson, 68

Aug. 1, 1936 - Aug. 15, 2004

MISSOURI VALLEY – Richard "Dick" LeRoy Johnson was born Aug. 1, 1936, in Armstrong, to Theodore Ted LeRoy and Leona Marie Blekfeld Johnson. He attended Armstrong schools and graduated from Armstrong High School in 1954. He served in the United States Air Force from January 1957 through October 1961, during which time he was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base and also spent some time deployed in Turkey.

June 14, 1958, he married Eleanor Jean Elbert at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Whittemore. They resided in Plattsmouth, NE, until October of 1961 when they moved to Dick's hometown of Armstrong where he assisted his father in the construction business. The family moved to Missouri Valley when Dick joined the Iowa Conservation Commission (now known as the Department of Natural Resources) in October 1964 and became the Game Warden for Harrison and Shelby Counties. Dick and Jean had three children, Nancy, Rich and Bruce. Dick continued to serve as Game Warden for Harrison and Shelby Counties for 37 years, until his retirement in December of 2000. During his career, Dick became a firearms instructor, a certified Peace Officer, and carried a Federal Fish and Wildlife Deputy Badge. He taught Hunter's Safety classes, especially for youth programs. He also competed in and won many awards in firearms shooting competitions throughout the years. He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Missouri Valley, a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, a member of Ducks Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Foundation, a lifetime member of the NRA and Pheasants Forever, and served the Boy Scouts in many capacities. He died Aug. 15, 2004, at Community Memorial Hospital from complications following a recent surgery.

He was preceded in death by his father, Theodore Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Jean Elbert Johnson; one daughter, Nancy Jane Johnson (Michael E.) Abel of Cheyenne, WY; two sons, Richard Leroy Johnson, Jr. (Grace Yeung) of Bloomington, MN and Bruce James Johnson of Omaha, NE; five grandchildren, Andrew, Aaron and Allison Abel and Kiera and Kirsten Johnson; his mother, Leona Johnson of Armstrong; and a brother, Jerry James Johnson of Cortez, CA.

A funeral Mass was held Aug. 19, 2004, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Missouri Valley. Hennessey-Aman Funeral Home in Missouri Valley in charge of arrangements.

