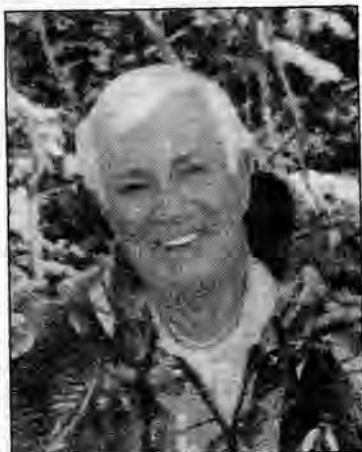


## Larye Roland Johnson, 81,

April 5, 1936 to April 16, 2017



**SCOTLAND, SD** – Larye Roland Johnson was born on April 5, 1936 to Elmer "Swede" and Opal (Wintersteen) Johnson in Olivet, SD. He graduated Olivet Grade School in 1950 and Menno High School in 1954. On September 5, 1956, Larye enlisted in the United States Army. He completed basic training at Fort Chaffe, AR and was permanently stationed at Fort Carson, CO. He was honorably discharged on June 4, 1958 having attained the rank of SP3.

On June 24, 1960, he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Joan G. Hesla in Scotland, SD. They were blessed with two children, Cindy and Brad.

In 1960, Larye earned his bachelor's degree at South State Teacher's College in Springfield. He taught in Ft. Pierre, SD for two years and then spent four years teaching in Melvin. He went on to earn his Master's degree at the University of South Dakota in 1967 and earned his Vocational Certificate at the University of Northern Iowa in 1968. For the next 30 years, from 1967 to 1997, Larye taught Office Education (O.E.) in Harlan.

In his lifetime, Larye taught for more than 36 years. Larye was extremely proud of his many students who went on to succeed in business and banking careers. The friendships and memories he formed with his students lasted well into their adulthoods, and were one of his proudest accomplishments.

Larye always had an interest in the great outdoors. He passed this love to all that visited with him. Larye, his family and friends spent many summers fishing and having good times at their little red cabin in Northern Minnesota.

Following Joan's death, in 2001 Larye returned to his hometown area to live in Scotland. The return allowed him to once again enjoy attending the Olivet United Methodist Church, the church he was baptized in. He spent his summers working as a campground manager at Riverside Campground on the Missouri River near Platte, SD. He loved waking up every morning to the sunrise on the horizon and the promise of a great catch waiting for him on the river. Larye also had a hobby of designing and making signs for Riverside Campground. If you're there you will surely see them.

Every year since 2001, he also took part in the Buffalo Roundup at Custer State Park and was a volunteer park ranger in the Black Hills. The mountains were Larye's personal cathedral; the forest his place of worship. Every day he was alive, God beckoned him outdoors with a song in his heart and a joke at the ready.

Larye passed away on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017 at Landmann-Jungman Memorial Hospital Avera in Scotland, having attained the age of 81 years and 11 days.

Larye was preceded in death by his wife Joan in 1998, his father, sisters Sally Guthmiller and Donna Zeeb, and brother-in-law Richard Powell. We know they're all sitting around a campfire right now, laughing and dancing at a lakeside cabin in heaven. As Larye put it, he's either hunting, fishing, or out having fun.

Larye is survived and remembered by his children Cindy (Dean) Lefebber of Harlan, and Brad (Michelle) Johnson of San Antonio, TX; grandchildren: Nicholas Johnson, Haley Johnson, Tyler (Jana) Lefebber, and Sarah Lefebber; mother Opal Johnson of Orange City; sister-in-law Barbara (Larry) Bloes; and two brothers-in-law, Don Guthmiller of Orange City and Charles Zeeb of Sioux Falls, SD.

A funeral was held Saturday, April 22, 10:30 a.m. at United Methodist Church, Olivet, SD. Interment was in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland. Goglin Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.