



## Donald James Johnson

December 4, 1928 - November 6, 2006

Donald James Johnson

77, of Columbus Township, died Monday, November 6, 2006 at MediLodge of Richmond.

He was born December 4, 1928 in Detroit, Michigan the son of the late James and Ada Coulter Johnson, and had worked various different jobs in his youth, from Free Press Paperboy to seven years at a downtown Detroit Fur Salon. He also worked as a Fuller Brush and Faygo route salesman, followed by nine years at Tasty Chip Steak Co. all in Detroit.

Don served his country with the United States Marine Corp Reserves from 1947 until his honorable discharge in 1949. Summer camps were in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

His marriage to Carol Ann Ballance was October 25, 1969 in Warren and have lived in Columbus Township ever since.

He was owner and operator of Fairway Electric Inc. for over 35 years. Don was Columbus Township's Electrical Inspector since 1974. He was a member of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors for over 33 years and served on the St. Clair County Electrical Exam Board for many years as well.

Don had many interests including flying lessons, boat ownership, model railroading, antiques, sign making, and was columnist for the former Richmond Review Newspaper. He recently performed in four plays with the Richmond Community Theater. His favorite Part was Dr. Ford in "The Andersonville Trial". Don loved his family very much and never failed to

express it. He and Carol were 20-year members of Chapter F, Gold Wing Road Riders Association, and were honored with a Life-Time Membership by the chapter in 2003.

Surviving in addition to his wife Carol of 37 years are 2 sons and daughters-in-law Donald Jr. and Marie of Algonac and Douglas and Debra of Clinton Twp; 5 daughters and 3 sons-in-law Judith Ann and Larry Bishop of Plainwell, Tina Daughtry of Rochester, Peggy and Ron Hodges of Richmond, Joyce Schramm of Armada and Brenda and Gary Bianchi or Romeo; 16 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandson Jason Eastman, brother Austin, and sisters Doritha Christ, Ethel McClure, and Margaret Ewald.

His family honors the memory of Donald and invite you to visit and share Wednesday 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Kaatz Funeral Directors, Richmond, and attend funeral services 11:00 a.m. Thursday with 10:00 a.m. visiting. Rev. Woodrow Nelson, pastor of Columbus Bible Church, Columbus Twp., will officiate.

Entombment will be in Richmond Cemetery, Richmond.

Memorials are suggested to "Wishes of the Family".

For information and Guest Book

[kaatzfunerals.com](http://kaatzfunerals.com)

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kaatz Funeral Directors - Richmond  
71235 Memphis Ridge Road  
Richmond, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ I want to take a minute to again honor one of thee **GREATEST** men ever! I Love my Grandpa dearly and miss him still soooo very much! Although my father reminds me so much of him, and i cannot imagine a better man to represent my grandpa, i feel he lives through us all, ecspecially my dad! Gone but **NEVER** fogotten grandpa, i love you! ~ Cyndi###imported-begin##Cyndi###imported-end##

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February 19, 2008 at 11:49 PM



“ Dear Carol,

So sorry to hear of Don's passing. He was a very dear man & I can never forget his cheerfulness and loving of life. I know I haven't seen him in a long time, but there are some people you meet in life that you can never forget-He's one of them! Best wishes for you and your family through your time of sorrow and may God bless you all.

Regards,

Robin (Rose)McKinnon###imported-begin##Robin McKinnon (Rose)###imported-end##

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November 15, 2006 at 01:57 PM



“ I loved Grandpa sooo much. It was always fun to be around him because of his sense of humor. He made all the family gatherings fun. I will really miss, but i will never stop loving him.###imported-begin##Sarah###imported-end##

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November 14, 2006 at 07:20 PM



“ My grandpa was a great man. He was always kind, caring, loving and funny. I will always love him.##imported-begin##Jessica##imported-end##

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November 14, 2006 at 07:14 PM



“ Carol So sorry for your loss, we didnt know Don that well But he was very kind when he did our electrial work. As time goes by the hurt will get less and the memories stronger, Our prayers are with you now and as time goes by.God Bless you and your family.##imported-begin##Joe and Robin Stanley##imported-end##

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November 13, 2006 at 06:12 PM



“ I cannot even begin to describe my Grandpa or the love I have for him. Anyone who never had the pleasure of him in their life, truly missed out! I honor him and miss him! A huge smile and a very big hug, is what i will miss the most! My grandpa and my last words to each other were "I love you Grandpa" and he blew me a kiss and said..."Right back at you baby!" Forever in my heart, and always on my mind....##imported-begin##Cyndi##imported-end##

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November 09, 2006 at 06:26 PM



“ Don my friend that I have known over 60 years.Weve shared alot of good times. Well miss you very much.You'll always be in our hearts.

Love: Your buddy Joe and Mary Manzella##imported-begin##Joe Manzella##imported-end##

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November 09, 2006 at 05:08 PM



“ Karen and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all of the family.##imported-begin##Ralph & Karen DeLorme##imported-end##

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November 09, 2006 at 09:16 AM



“ Don will be sadly missed by all. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family at this time. We will miss his smile at the family functions we attended.##imported-begin##steve and tina##imported-end##

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November 08, 2006 at 08:29 PM



“ Carol & Family we want to extend our deepest sympathies. May your family find the strength that you will need to get through the rough days ahead.  
We will be thinking of you.  
The Gabridge's##imported-begin##Jill, Jon, Makenzie & Micah Gabridge##imported-end##

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November 08, 2006 at 05:54 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss.

*Dennis is Rider Educator and Gayle is Assistant Chapter Director of Chapter E GWRRA Mi.*

*Dennis & Gayle Jisa##imported-begin##Dennis & Gayle Jisa##imported-end##*

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November 08, 2006 at 02:39 PM



“ Fred and I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Don's family. We are unable to attend the ceremony but keep all in our prayers and hearts. We thank the Lord for allowing Don to be a part of our lifes, he will be deeply missed and loved.##imported-begin##Fred Willenberg & Cindy Weber##imported-end##

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November 08, 2006 at 11:58 AM



“ I want to extend my deepest sympathies to all the family. I am not able to attend the service for Don. I have known Don since I was a very little girl.He was a friend of my Uncle Joe Manzella. He was a wonderful man and I was always going to marry him when I grew up. I remember his exquisite good looks and his kindness. He was always happy to see me and my sisters. I know he will be deeply missed by all. Thank you God for Don's time on earth and for the great pleasure of knowing him.##imported-begin##Anna (Vitale) Bedard##imported-end##

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November 08, 2006 at 10:22 AM



“ Words can't express how much I loved my grandpa. I will miss him every day for the rest of my life. I can't imagine my life without him. I hope I'm more like him than I realize. I'm proud to be his grand son and I'm so grateful for the 38 years he was in my life.##imported-begin##Rob##imported-end##

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November 08, 2006 at 02:17 AM



“ Grandpa J will truly be missed. He filled the room when he entered it, and right now I bet he's crackin' them up in Heaven. Love and prayers to his family...##imported-begin##Lori Adkins##imported-end##

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November 08, 2006 at 12:10 AM



“ Dad was like a father to me, especially after my own dad passed away. He made me feel like a daughter, not a daughter in law. I loved his corny jokes and sense of humor. He was his own biggest fan. I loved him for how he showed his affection, not even letting the men and boys off without a kiss and a hug. He never missed a family function until his health prohibited it. He is "Grandpa" to all of my family and they love him dearly. We had four Generations of Johnsons and that is such a blessing. How lucky his great grandkids were to have gotten to know him. None of will ever forget him. I LOVE YOU DAD!!!##imported-begin##Debbie##imported-end##

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November 07, 2006 at 11:32 PM



“ I'm so glad I was able to have you in my life and that you invited me into yours. You will be deeply missed by all.##imported-begin##Angie##imported-end##

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November 07, 2006 at 07:00 PM