

Johnie Leroy Sturgeon was born on January 20th, 1926 in Montevideo, MN to John and Rachel (Ogilvie) Sturgeon. His early years were spent on a farm near Montevideo. When he was a teenager the family moved to a farm east of Clarkfield and it was there Johnie met the love of his life, Ruth Friberg. He graduated from Clarkfield High School in 1944. Johnie and Ruth were blessed with five children: Nancy, John Wayne, Marlene, Jennifer and Donavon and had just celebrated their 78th wedding anniversary on October 24th, 2021.

After graduation, Johnie enlisted in the Army and served with the 11th Airborne in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was a paratrooper and jumped 8 times during his Army career, which spanned from 1944 through 1946, before he was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant TEC 4. He played trombone in the 11th Airborne band during his time in Japan. Johnie was an active member of the American Legion for over 73 years, serving in many positions, and was the Commander of the Willmar VFW while living there.

Johnie was a hard worker, farming and working full time at AMPI and later at CENEX in Clarkfield. After moving to Willmar in the late 1970's he worked at the CENEX delivering propane. In 1993, Johnie and Ruth returned to Clarkfield to live out their retirement years. He was a faithful member of Augustana Lutheran Church, serving on several committees, boards, and ushering for many years.

Next to his family, Johnie's love was music. He started out playing trombone in the Clarkfield High School band and shared his musical talent with family and friends for the next 70 plus years. He played and sang with "The Hollanders," "Big Jim Band," "Ancient Age," "Bernette and Johnie," "Marlowe Skaalen Band," "Merle Petrick Band," and "The Moonlighters." After retirement, Johnie and friend Wayne entertained at numerous senior citizen events and nursing homes. One of his highlights was playing with son Donavon and Wayne at his grandson Josh's wedding dance.

He will be greatly missed by his loving wife Ruth; children, Nancy (Bill) Houston, John W. Sturgeon, Marlene (Dale) Berg, Jennifer (friend Mike) Oaks, and Donavon (Laurie) Sturgeon; grandchildren, Mark (Lori), Shelley (Gordon), Joshua (Denise), Jessica (Justin), Katy (Don), Angie, Hannah and Isaac; great-grandchildren, Krista, Ricky, Abby, Gavin, Graham, Grace, Haven, Journey, Iris, Alex, Zach, Isabella, Donnie Jr, and Carly; great-great grandson, Henrik, and many nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Rachel; brothers, Woodrow and Mike; sister, Ruth Lynner, and grandson, Bill Houston Jr.

In Loving Memory



Johnie Leroy Sturgeon

1926~ 2021

Asleep

*I've closed my eyes and fallen asleep;
So there's no reason for you to weep
This is a debt we all must pay
But it is a sweet and peaceful way.
I've endured pain and sometime sorrow;
No, I don't have to worry about tomorrow.
But life for you must go on;
You must not worry because I'm gone.
You stood beside me all the way
When I was down, you knew what to say.
You always told me to get some rest
Let me sleep now; I've done my best.
So please now let me rest in peace;
The tears you're shedding soon will cease.
You'll soon realize that this was meant to be;
And I thank God because He came for me.*

In Memory of

Johnie Leroy Sturgeon

January 20, 1926



November 19, 2021

Celebration of Life

Augustana Lutheran Church
Clarkfield, Minnesota
Saturday, June 18th, 2022
2 PM

Officiant

Vicar Mort Meyenburg

Pianist

Dana Larson

Soloists

Bill Houston

Jean Lynner

Reading of the Obituary

Dale Berg

Scripture Readings

Donavon Sturgeon

Urnbearer

John Wayne Sturgeon

Interment

Fridhem Cemetery
Rural Clarkfield, Minnesota

