

IN LOVING MEMORY

Krista Sanda Johnson (Gandrud)



December 26, 1937 ~ April 22, 2022

Graveside Service
Girard Union Cemetery
Henning, Minnesota

Clergy
Pastor Keith Lankford

Survived By

Krista is preceded in death by her parents, and her first husband Donald J Sanda. She is survived by her husband Richard O. Johnson. She is also survived by her 6 children: John (Marcia) of Owatonna, Karin (Todd Luebke) of Maple Grove, Steven of Ottertail, Timothy (Janet) of Apple Valley, Paul of Edina, and David (Susan) of Edina, and stepchildren Lisa (Bob Bernabucci) of Mendota Hts, and Scott (Ann Marie) Johnson of Lake Elmo. Also survived by grandchildren Lauren (Michael) Martiny, Rebecca and Rachel Luebke, Sam, Drew and George Sanda, and Jack and Beatrice Sanda, and several step grandchildren. Also survived by great grandchildren Kirby, and twins Teddi and Tripp Martiny. Also survived by sisters Donna (John) Uline of Blaine, and Jill (Jack) Wahman of St Cloud, sister-in-law Clarice Johnson of Minneapolis, and many nieces and nephews.

*I am home in heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.
There is work still waiting for you.
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth -
You shall rest in God's own land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting.
Oh, the joy to see you come!*

Krista was born Dec 26, 1937 in Detroit Lakes, MN to Karrol "Kelly" and Luella Gandrud. She graduated DLHS in 1955 and then was given \$5 from her dad and was told "Good Luck" as she headed to St Cloud State Teachers College. Krista was editor of the college newspaper, where she met a grad student named Donald J. Sanda, of East Battle Lake MN. They were married Dec 28, 1956. They moved to Staples MN where Don was a HS English teacher and Krista was a substitute Home Ec teacher. They raised six children in Staples: John, Karin, Steven, Timothy, Paul, and David.

When's Don's Uncle George passed away in 1965, Krista insisted they buy George's rock cabin on East Battle Lake, MN. Despite protests from Don, they bought it. Krista usually got what she wanted. That required her to get a full time job, at Benson's Optical in Staples. Krista was upset to learn her first paycheck was about 35% less than she was expecting, after taxes were withheld. That was when she decided to get actively involved in the Republican Party..

Krista started at the grass roots level, but put in extensive time and energy, often bringing her children in tow to help. Krista quickly expanded her involvement to the regional, state, and national level, eventually getting appointed by several governors to high commissions and boards, traveling frequently to St Paul and Washington DC.

Krista and Don divorced but maintained a close relationship. In 1991 Krista married Richard O. Johnson, president of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union. They remained married until her death.

In her spare time, Krista obsessed over family antiques and family trees, and loved her time at East Battle Lake MN & winters in Harlingen TX. Krista had the gift of gab and her proudest accomplishment was raising six "perfect" children.

