



## Clifford Leroy Johnson

March 1, 1923 - March 21, 2025

Clifford Leroy Johnson, a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at the age of 102 on March 21, 2025. Born on March 1, 1923, in Aurora, Nebraska, to Fay (Ury) and Lloyd Johnson, Clifford was the oldest of four siblings: Lois, Elza, and Audrey.

Clifford graduated from high school in Amboy, Illinois, and shortly thereafter, he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II. He served with honor in Kiska, Alaska, and later in Italy with the esteemed 10th Mountain Division. Clifford's bravery earned him a Purple Heart for sustaining non-life-threatening injuries, and he took great pride in being part of the historic fall of the Mussolini fascist regime.

After returning from the war, Clifford settled in Colorado, where, by God's guiding hand, he met the love of his life, Verda Loree Bibler. The couple married on May 17, 1947, and together they raised a family in Fountain, Colorado. Clifford worked as a brick mason and quickly mastered the trade. He went on to own his own contracting business, leaving a lasting legacy of his craftsmanship, with projects including the Pikes Peak Summit Visitor's Center, the dormitories at Western Colorado University in Gunnison, and numerous churches throughout the state.

Clifford and Verda were involved in the Fountain Methodist Church and the

local community, where Clifford proudly served on the school board for many years. Clifford and his growing family raised dairy cows, Angus cattle, and tended to their beautiful farm. His dedication to both family—his children Merle, Neal, Lars, and Twyla—and community was unwavering.

In his retirement years, Clifford developed a passion for gardening, with a particular love for cannas, his favorite flowers. He was known for his green thumb and energetic spirit, always finding joy in cultivating his plants.

Although Verda faced many years with Alzheimer's, the couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in Yakima, Washington, surrounded by loved ones. In 2023, many friends and family gathered together in Kearney, Nebraska, to celebrate Clifford's remarkable achievement of reaching his 100th birthday.

Clifford is preceded in death by his beloved wife Verda, his son Neal, his brother Elza, and his sister Lois. He is survived by his sister Audrey, children Merle, Lars, Twyla, and many cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren—27 in total, with one on the way.

Clifford will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of love, hard work, and service to others will live on in the hearts of many.