

Phillip C. Johnson

(December 08, 1942 - October 12, 2021)

Phillip C. Johnson, age 78, of Traverse City, Michigan, died October 12, 2021. He was born December 8, 1942, in St. Joseph, Michigan to John and Elvera Johnson.



Phillip graduated Okemos High School in 1961. He then attended Western Michigan University where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1965, followed by Graduate work in Education receiving his teaching certificate. In 1968, he moved to Northern Michigan to work as a Deputy for the Benzie County Sheriff's Department. Shortly after, he met Jean White who he married in 1970. Together they moved back to Okemos, Michigan, where Phillip worked for his father's business, Johnson Painting Company from 1970-1974.

He then began his career with the Meridian Township Fire Department as a Firefighter in 1974...

Meridian appoints fire marshal

Phillip C. Johnson, a Meridian Township fireman, was appointed township fire marshal Tuesday night by the township board.

He succeeds David Sherman in the \$19,632-a-year job. Sherman resigned last month from

that position, but continues as a Meridian firefighter.

Johnson was a Meridian fireman from 1967 to 1969, a Benzie County sheriff's sergeant from 1969 to 1971, and later a painting contractor.

He rejoined the Meridian fire department in 1974.

retiring as Fire Chief in 1997.

OKEMOS

Fire chief retiring after 31 years

A retirement party for Phillip Johnson, Meridian Township fire chief, will recognize his 31 years of service on Friday.

The party at the Michigan Athletic Club is open to the public and begins at 6 p.m. with social hour; dinner at 6:45 p.m. and program at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. Gift donations are welcome. Call the public safety department, 347-5060, ext. 301 to put in your reservation.

Starting as a part time paid firefighter in 1966, Johnson moved up to full time in 1974. He moved up through the ranks of fire marshal in 1979, deputy chief in 1981, and fire chief in 1984.

The fire chief is a certified emergency medical technician and is a member of the Ingham County Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Ingham County Hazardous Material Response Team steering committee.

The retiring fire chief plans to keep busy with work in a related field after Friday.

Following retirement, Phillip moved back to Northern Michigan settling in the Lake Ann area.

Phillip was very proud of his children, grandchildren, and their accomplishments. He loved his boats, golden retrievers, fishing, Lake Michigan, and spending time in the workshop. Phil gave willingly of his time to the communities he lived in, whether in the Lansing area or Northern Michigan. Willing to help others, he was the ever-present handyman with his truck and tools.

Phillip is survived by: his former wife, Jean Johnson (White) of Lake Ann; daughter, Brandi Johnson of Sarasota, FL; son, Brent (Stephanie) Johnson of Lansing; grandchildren, Evan and Sarah Johnson of Lansing; sister, Lynne Kenworthy of Kasson, MN; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Phillip was preceded in death by: his parents, John and Elvera Johnson; nephew, John Kenworthy; and former parents' in-law, Ole and Helen White.

A celebration of life visitation will be held from 4-6pm on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at Bennett-Barz Funeral Home in Beulah, Michigan.

The family would like to thank Medilodge of Traverse City and Heartland Hospice for their care of Phillip.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Almira Township Fire Department.

Phillip, son of John Cornelius Johnson (1913-1991) and Elvera Dagmar Piehl (1916-1983), was born in St. Joseph, Berrien County, Michigan. He married Jean Helen White, 27 June 1970.