



## William Lafayette Johnson

December 3, 1929 - July 29, 2016

William Lafayette Johnson passed away Friday morning surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Harlem, Montana on December 3, 1929 to Daniel and Dorothy (Webber) Johnson. He grew up on the Fort Belknap Reservation and broke horses as a young man. Bill went to schools in Harlem and Butte. He joined the United States Navy in December of 1946 and was present for the atomic testing and blast at Bikini Atoll. He served in the Pacific, Caribbean and Mediterranean and following his honorable discharge returned to Butte where he worked as an underground miner his entire career.

He was very proud of his Indian heritage and was co founder of the North American Indian Alliance in Butte where he served as chairman for over 40 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping with his kids.

Bill married Helen Candelaria in Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 22, 1985 and she survives. Also surviving are his children: William "Billy" Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Thomas and Beverly Johnson all of Butte and Georgia Johnson and Don Tamietti of Pipestone. He also has three step-daughters: Genevieve, Yvonne and Joel. Surviving grandchildren include Zachary and Justin Johnson, Tommy Johnson, Kristina Rodriguez, William Johnson, Destiny and Cory Henson, Mitchell and Tammy Tamietti, numerous great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and his closest and life-long friend Bob Azure. He is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, three sisters, his son-in-law, Mitch Cunningham and brother-in-law, Gerald Candelaria.



# Previous Events

## Vigil

AUG 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home  
1800 Florence Ave  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 723-3221  
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

## Service

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (MT)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
3930 East Lake Drive  
Butte, MT 59701

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Sam Painter, Terri Healy, Jo Mehrens and families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Lafayette Johnson.*



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**Sam Painter, Terri Healy, Jo Mehrens and families** - August 02, 2016 at 03:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home** - August 01, 2016 at 09:54 AM