

then attended Pine City Vocational School for two years, where he studied auto mechanics. His dream, however, was to become a farmer, and in 1979 he realized that dream when he began his own dairy farm operation.

On Oct. 24, 1981, Dean married the former Diane Sprunk, a union that was to last for 20 1/2 wonderful years. Their son, Jason Dean, was born in 1984. Dean was extremely proud of Jason at his birth and throughout his lifetime.

At the age of nine, Dean was diagnosed with diabetes. Although he took good care of himself and stayed active, at age 27 he began suffering from kidney failure. He received dialysis for 18 months, but being a determined farmer, Dean continued milking his cows.

In 1988, he underwent a successful kidney transplant, but in 1989 his health began to deteriorate, and he discontinued the dairy farm. He became employed at Kennen Dairy Supplies, where he enjoyed going to the various farms and visiting with the farmers.

In 1990, Dean began to have problems with his circulation and eventually underwent amputation of both of his legs and both of his hands. Once more he was determined to pursue his dream of being involved in farming and began working for Bruce Carlson, milking cows and doing field work. His handicap not only did not deter him, it barely slowed him down. He continued to have a few cattle and sheep on his own farm.

Three years ago Dean was diagnosed with cancer. He achieved remission with the grace of God and excellent medical treatment. However, his vascular disease became worse, and his kidney was beginning to fail.

He continued to struggle

with his health problems for another two years before finally coming home to rest. His faith, love and belief in God carried him through 15 years of severe medical problems. He never complained or asked why. He enjoyed being with his family and visiting with friends. He will be missed by all, but his love and determination will continue forever.

Dean was preceded in death by his father, Willard, and his grandparents.

He is survived by his wife, Diane, son, Jason, mother, Doris Johnson, all of Rush City; sisters, Barbara, and husband, Charles Duffeck, Menasha, WI and Joanne and husband, Douglas Mooers, Palmdale, CA; nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends.

Funeral service was at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pine City. The Rev. Jack Koch and the Rev. Vicki VanderVegt officiated.

Music was provided by Glenna Reiersen, Diane Bengtson, Jon Ekstrom and Glenn Larsen.

Honorary casketbearers were the nurses at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and the staff of Fairview Home Caring and Hospice.

Casketbearers were Bruce Carlson, Mark Carlson, David Gravdal, Anders Johnson, Peter Johnson and Dale Johnson.

Burial was at the First Lutheran Cemetery in Rush City.



Dean Johnson

Dean A. Johnson

Dean Allen Johnson died at his rural Rush City home on Sunday, May 19, 2002 at the age of 43. His death occurred following 15 years of major health problems.

The son of Willard E. and Doris (Gravdal) Johnson, Dean was born Jan. 27, 1959 in Rush City. Due to the cold winter that year, he was baptized at home. He was confirmed at First Lutheran Church in Rush City.

Dean attended Rush City Elementary School and graduated from Rush City High School in 1977. He