



Recognition and Appreciation of Virginia M Johnson

by Frankfurt American High School Alumni Association (FAHSAA)

2022

SUMMARY: FAHSAA is deeply appreciative of the contributions Virginia Johnson made over the years in support of our beloved Frankfurt American High School (FAHS) and later for our Frankfurt American High School Alumni Association (FAHSAA). She was our beloved Melloteens, Chorus, and German teacher at FAHS 1957-1985.



Remembrances of Virginia: (Credit given to excerpts from Virginia's Eulogy by Tom Hardaway, Gunderson Funeral Care, and many interviews with students)

Virginia Johnson was born in Madison, Wisconsin to Clarence and Minnie (Olson) Johnson. She was the second of three daughters; sisters Carol and Betty. Virginia grew up on a dairy farm and was adept at milking cows and driving trucks and tractors. She attended kindergarten through 12th grade in local schools and graduated in 1942 with only 35 classmates.

After graduating from high school, Virginia attended Luther College for a year before transferring to The School of Music at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. It was there that she graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor of Music degree. Not one to stop at a bachelor's degree, she went on to earn a Master of Music degree at the University of Wisconsin and topped that off with a Master of Arts degree from Ball State University.

Virginia began her 40-year teaching career in Wisconsin where she taught elementary school Music and English. By 1955 she accepted her first position as an educator with DoDDS- Department of Defense Dependent Schools. Her first assignment was Narimasu High School, Tokyo, Japan, teaching Music.

After two years in Japan she was reassigned to Frankfurt American High School in Frankfurt Germany. It was here that she would teach from 1957 to 1986. Miss Johnson taught Choral Music, Honors Choir, Guitar, coached the Men's Golf Team, and led her beloved Melloteens, Debonaires, and Rhythmettes as traveling music groups as both entertainment and goodwill ambassadors throughout Europe.

Upon retiring in 1986, she began her second act by teaching German to American soldiers for 8 years.

Though Virginia loved teaching and loved her students she did have other interests and activities outside of a school setting. She was an avid traveler of Asia and Europe where she hiked, volksmarched, and climbed; Mt Fiji to her credit. Additionally, Virginia was proficient in Piano, Guitar, Coronet, String Bass, Trumpet, and Drums.

Yes, she loved all of these activities but yet she had only one true love, one intense passion that trumped all others. YAHTZEE! Her devotion was so serious that it has been said that she continued to play every week until the Sunday before her passing at 98 years old.

In recent years she has connected via Facebook with many of her former students. A group of these students visited her in Madison in October of 2014, and every year after around her birthday until Covid led to Zoom birthday parties in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Her students loved her and credited her with having had great influence in their lives, especially in their continued love and participation in music.

Virginia will be remembered not only for her love of music and teaching but also for the inspiration she was to so many. Many of her students went on to become educators, musical

directors, vocal coaches, choir directors, choral members, instrumental teachers, or took their love of singing to the shower and to their children's bedside.

Virginia will also be remembered as a friend; one who appreciated the love you gave back to her over the many years beyond high school.

In summation and perhaps most importantly, Virginia was a woman of faith, a humble servant of God, and an active member of Bethel Lutheran Church. She had peace in her passing knowing she would be joining her parents and sisters in their heavenly home.

Well done Virginia Johnson... well done!



Melloteens of 1966-67

FAMILY BIO OF Virginia:

- **Life:**
Born 20 September 1934. Passed away at 98 on October 6, 2022.
- **Family:**
Virginia is survived by nephews, Michael (Mary) Crapp and Daniel Crapp; great-nephews, Eric Crapp and Darin Carter and family; great-niece, Nikki Elgin and family; cousins, James Olson and family and Cynthia Mandl and family. She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Betty McCarthy (2004), and Carol Crapp (2013); nephew, Tim Crapp (2011); niece, Jane Cassady (2021); and most of her traveling companions.

- **HOME:**
Lived in Madison, Wisconsin at time of Death.

EDUCATION AND CAREER BIO:

- School of Music at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Bachelor of Music degree, 1946
- Master of Music degree at the University of Wisconsin
- Master of Arts degree from Ball State University.

CAREER:

Lifetime Educator and YAHTZEE Professional



Golf Team of Spring 1967 (Left to Right): Tom O’Conner, Greg Eaves, Al Thel, Craig Mason, Mike Lehn, Dave Kukucka, Coach Virginia Johnson.

A mini-reunion in 2014, Virginia coaxed out of retirement to lead one more time. Right to left: Debbie Salina Cooper, Bill Hoot, Lily Pippin Sullivan, Carol Anne Myer, Kay Dukes Weeks, David Ratcliffe, and Richard Hedrick (behind the bushes!).

