

## Esther B. "Mrs. J" Johnson



Esther Johnson

Beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, cat-lover and teacher.

Esther B. Johnson, "Mrs. J", was born August 16, 1931 in Douglas, Ariz., to Felipe Barrios and Maria Barrios. She passed away July 14, 2010. She was the youngest of a large family of six. Tomas, Sahara, Guillermo, Gloria, Felipe and then Esther. Esther met Bill Johnson at the local skating rink in Douglas, Ariz., in February 1952 and after a long-distance courtship, they married on April 11, 1954.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 56 years, Bill Johnson; children, Ann-Renee Smith and her husband, Brian from Union City, Calif., Bill Johnson and his wife, Christine of Rancho Cucamonga; her sisters, Gloria Gavitt of San Francisco, Calif., and Sahara Cookson of Newport Beach, Calif.; brother, Felipe Barrios of Douglas, Arizona; beloved granddaughters, Brooke Messina and her husband, Daniel of Rancho Cucamonga and Skye Starcher and husband, Eric of Barstow, Calif., Nissa Brandt and her husband, Jake of Marysville, Washington; grandson, Connor Smith of Berkeley, Calif.; and many great-grandchildren and close family in Arizona. Esther was an active volunteer for a local animal clinic, shelved books in Cameron Elementary School's library and helped in kindergarten. She also worked at Barstow High School as a campus monitor and then at Kennedy Middle School as a campus monitor becoming a Spanish translator and sign language interpreter as well as being assigned to administer behavior

modification and support during the school day.

In years before retiring, Esther enjoyed an active life style including daily five mile walks or runs. She loved crocheting, spending time with her grandchildren and rescuing homeless cats. She mentored many young adults and was known lovingly as "Mrs. J." to many students in our community. She was a great source of strength and grace to her family.

A private ceremony will be held.

In lieu of flowers, a gift may be sent in her name to: Barstow Humane Society, 2480 E Main St. Barstow, CA 92311. (760) 252-4800.

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