

Linda Lee Jean Johnson

My Grandma

By, Whitney Barnes 4th grade

My Grandma and I have had a special relationship since the day I was born. I chose to write this is a tribute to her. Linda Lee Jean Johnson is the name she was given on August 10 1948 by her mother Mary Lou Belle.

Grandma was born in Denver Colorado with big beautiful blue eyes and no hair at all! She soon became the older sister to her baby brother, my uncle, Jimmy Johnson. Grandma remembers having a happy childhood although there were times she had to face great tragedies and endure hard times as a young girl.

Her mother, Mary Lou made all of her clothes and worked as a waitress to help provide for the family. Grandma says Mary Lou was so short, measuring in at only 4 feet and 1 1 inches tall, she would stack pillows in the car to sit on just so she could reach the pedals to drive.

One Easter when Grandma was 2 years old, all dressed in her pink fluffy Easter dress, she quietly found her way outside to climb into the coal bin to play, she was covered from head to toe in black coal. When she was 3 she proved to be quite a busy little girl when she was found standing in the hall with her sisters gold fish, one in her mouth with the tail hanging out, one smashed in her hand and the other hand still fishing in the fish bowl.

Grandma was always finding ways to stay busy and have fun. Her idea of fun was making mud cakes filled with crickets for her little brother Jimmy to eat, she would serve them up and tell him to eat and he did just that!

At a very young age Grandmas mother Mary Lou became very sick. She remembers many visits to the Denver hospital where she would stand outside and watch for her mother to wave from the window.

When she was only 7 years old, her mother died of cancer called Leukemia. My grandma had her grandma named Fay but she liked to call her momsie. When her mother Mary Lou died, her grandma Fay adopted her and little brother Jimmy. After being adopted Grandma now had 3 sisters, Bonnie, Rosemary and Dolly. Fay was a loving mother who always tried to make sure Grandma and Jimmy had a loving home.

They spent a lot of time at Shaffers Crossing in the mountains just outside of Denver. She loved playing in the streams and on the mountain. She loved to bike ride, run through the hose and make go carts with Jimmy.

When her and Jimmy really wanted to have some fun they would fill a shopping cart full of blankets and take their little cousin Bruce to the top of the hill. They would make sure Bruce was covered with the blankets inside the shopping cart then down the hill they would send him. Like I said, grandma was always having fun.

When Grandma turned 20 years old she had moved to Grand Junction Co. and was married to Hank Williams, Jr. Not the famous Hank Williams, although he was the lead singer in his band and he loved to play guitar.

She wanted a family and that she was blessed with. Having 3 daughters was the joy of her life. After many years of marriage, my grandma and grandpa Hank divorced leaving her to raise 3 young girls on her own.

That is my mom Kim and my 2 Aunts, Michelle and Rebecca. Grandma worked hard to provide for her girls and also made time to have fun. She would take them out to lunch during school, take them for special mom and daughter dates, even do fun and crazy things I won't mention. She always made her girls feel special on their birthdays and would make them strawberry shakes in the morning to wake them up for school.

My mom says when she was growing up, all her friends wanted to play at her house because she had the cool mom that all her friends loved. My grandma has been an Optician, Mail lady, Day Care owner and provider, and Radiology technician.

She was born in Denver Colorado and has also lived in 2 other states, Arkansas and Utah where she lives now. I have learned that my Grandma was a special daughter, a loving sister, a successful mother, and the best Grandma a girl could ask for.

Since I was very little her and I would sit outside on the swing and "enjoy the evening", take walks in her garden, go on special girl dates, and always make time to win her at cards! She is a survivor of cancer and a strong woman.

She has taught me to find the diamond in a lump of coal and to always be proud of who I am.