

## Jack Jackson 1938-2021

I first met Jack Johnson 30 years ago, on the evening of July 4, 1994, when, possessing only the clothes on my back, I hiked miles over the tundra alone and, by providence, arrived at the Johnson homestead seeking help. Jack immediately offered his assistance unconditionally and refused to accept any payment. On that evening, we became life-long friends.

Jack Johnson, 83 years old, was born in 1938 of American-Swedish heritage and passed away on November 28, 2021, after living a hard life and a life of adventure. When he was six years old, Jack and his parents moved from Michigan to an uninhabited area of Alaska where they built their homestead. Jack and his father made trails in the area that are still used today. Several lakes in the area are named for him and his family. A mountain was named for his wife by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, the only living person to ever be so honored. Jack and his wife of 57 years have eight children, and they lived a subsistence lifestyle, living off the land by hunting and fishing. And blueberries in August! Jack was a modern-day Daniel Boone.

My life was greatly enriched having known him and his family. I cherished the days over the years being a guest at the Johnson homestead and spending time with Jack on adventure in the outdoors, as well as, in recent years, sitting in the living room of his log cabin at the end of a long day with his German Shephard eating a hearty dinner prepared by Vi while we watched satellite TV hundreds of miles away from civilization. Jack Johnson was my friend, mentor and hero, and I will forever miss him.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” (Matthew 25:35).*