



Home Going Celebration
Arthur "Ajax" Johnson, Jr.

The Man...The Legend

Sunrise
February 22, 1938

Sunset
July 4, 2013

Service

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church
88 Lyons Avenue
Newark, New Jersey

Obituary

Arthur (Artie) Johnson was born February 22, 1938 to the late Arthur and Bessie (Edmonds) Johnson in East Orange, New Jersey. He departed this life Wednesday, July 4, 2013.

Artie, was a life long resident of the City of Newark, raised in the old Third Ward. He received his education in the Newark Public School system attending 18th Avenue Elementary School, Cleveland Jr. High School and South Side High School. He continued his post secondary education at Winston-Salem State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960. After graduation, he returned to Newark where he earned his certification in Elementary Education. Artie's career as an educator, drug education coordinator, recreation director, mentor and basketball coach spanned over thirty years. All of his students, players and mentees idolized and looked up to him. He was everyone's "Father", according to them. Many times Artie brought students home to eat and provided clothing and anything else that was needed.

Artie was an exceptional competitor who earned letters in basketball, track and field and football. He was a member of the South Side High School "Bulldogs" 1953 and 1956 All-City Championship teams and continued his success at Winston-Salem State University. He served as the basketball coach at Weequahic High School leading the team to a Group III State Championship in 1980. He also served as the recreational director at Ripple Field and Columbus Homes.

In 1995, Artie retired from the Newark Public School system but not from life. He received numerous awards, citations and commendations for his community service and on-going work with youth. Artie appeared on the HBO/ESPN Sports Special entitled "Black Magic" featuring all African American College students and is mentioned the book "The Salt Mine", highlighting all African American Basketball players in the City of Newark that played at Cleveland Jr. High School's - The Salt Mine. Many of these athletes went on to acclaim in the sports world. Artie has also been featured on his son's show, Rookie' Round Table, on Cablevision. He was a prominent member of the Duker's AC Boxing Club and co-founder of the United States Youth Games.

In 2001, Artie was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame; 2007, inducted into the South Side High School Hall of Fame where his number five jersey was retired. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Clarence "Big House" Gaines "Unsung Hero" Award. He was also the recipient of the Unsung Pioneers Lifetime Achievement Award - Above the Rim.

Artie met the love of his life, "Dee", during their high school years. They have been married fifty-six years and it is a love story for the books. They served as each others "rock". Artie and Dee really enjoyed their retirement by traveling, socializing and being active in their community. Artie's favorite saying about Dee was "I'd rather fight than switch".

Artie was truly an exceptional man with a beautiful smile that lit up the room. He will be with us forever. He leaves to mourn his passing: his beloved wife, Delores; his children, Michele, Rookie, Darren, June Hare, Anthony and Jonathan; brother, Melvin; sister, Marian Baker; grandchildren, Shakira, Christian, Aleia and Jamar; two daughters-in-law, Stefania Johnson and Marilyn Brown; son-in-law, Robert Wise; two sisters-in-law, Yvonne Johnson and Audrey Clark; two aunts, Gloria Brown and Evangelist Edna Hamilton; and a host of other grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, colleagues (especially his WSSU family) and many, many friends.

He was predeceased by Clarence Clark and Frederick "Azziz".

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn

Scripture Readings Rev. Rufus McClendon, Pastor
First Park Church of Plainfield, NJ

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Evang. Beverly McKenzie

Acknowledgements Dorothy Darden

Obituary Dorothy Darden

Reflections Family and Friends

Selection Evang. Beverly McKenzie

Eulogy Rev. Rufus McClendon

Recessional

Interment

Hollywood Memorial Park
Union, New Jersey

*Repast immediately after service at
Intl Longshoremen's Hall
Local 1233
731 South 10th Street • Newark, NJ 07102*



To My Knight in Shining Armor:

You swept me off of my feet at age sixteen and you could still make me swoon at seventy-five. What a journey through life we've shared together for fifty-nine years.

Believe me, there was never a dull moment. You left me a lifetime legacy of strength and love!

Thank you for the everlasting memories and the very best of everything...my sweet prince.

*Loving you forever,
Dee*

Acknowledgement

With profound appreciation, the family of the late Arthur "Ajax" Johnson acknowledges the many cards, telegrams, flowers, baskets, phone calls, personal kindness and other expressions of love and sympathy during these hours of bereavement.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

www.honoryou.com

