



*Celebrating The  
Life of*

*Otha W. Johnson  
"Billy"*

*Sunrise*  
*April 22, 1928*

*Sunset*  
*March 4, 2014*

*Service*  
Monday, March 10, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

**MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

141 West 115<sup>th</sup> Street • New York, NY  
*Rev. Dr. Renee F. Washington Gardner, Senior Pastor, Officiating*

# Obituary

## *Otha William Johnson, II*

**Billy**, was born on April 22, 1928 in Harlem Hospital to the late Otha Sr. and Christabel Johnson. Billy met and married the love of his life Gwendolyn in 1946, who preceded him in death. Billy was the oldest of four children. His sister, Michelle preceded him in death. He leaves to mourn his brother, LeVon and his sister, Joyce. Billy worked for New York City Transit Authority for twenty-four years and retired in 1996. He traveled the world Egypt, Japan and many other countries.

After retirement, he became an excellent bridge player often coming in 1st or 2nd place. He has the trophy to show for it. He became a big part of the Bridge family at the senior citizen centers and offered his knowledge to anyone who was willing to learn the game of bridge, he was a great mentor to many. He loved doing his crossword puzzles.

He truly loved and adored his family and they adored him. Billy was loved I mean truly loved by anyone he came in contact with. A quote from one of his doctors “He is not only a gentleman he is truly a gentlemen”. He was always willing to lend a helping hand, give a ride to his fellow senior citizen friends. I know he will truly be missed by everyone.

Billy leaves to mourn: his children, Regina, Otha III, Donna, Gary, Gail and Ellen. Preceded him was his daughter, Renee. He will be missed by his grandchildren, Adonis, William, Latece Kamal, Lamik, Howard, LeVon, Jarrad, Corey, Courtney, Sabrina, Matthew, Erika, Eric, Matthew, Marc, Kailah, Gabrielle, Daniella, George, Daryl, Garris, Jenna, James and Brian; twenty-seven great grands; two daughters-in-law, Lynell and Inez; two sons-in-law, Brian and Eddie; one brother-in-law, Eddie; and a host of nieces, nephews and also a special friend, Aloma.

# Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....Minister of Music Leon Brown

The Processional.....Clergy & Family

Invocation

Hymn of Assurance.....“*Near the Cross*”  
Hymn #94

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - John 14:1-6

The Prayer of Comfort

Hymn of Consolation.....“*Blessed Assurance*”  
Hymn #27

Reflections.....(2 Minutes Please)

Acknowledgment of Condolences

Reading of Obituary

Solo.....Deacon Eddie L. Parker, Jr.

The Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Renee F. Washington Gardner

Recessional.....“*When We All Get To Heaven*”  
Hymn #429

## Interment

Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey

# *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.*

*Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

*-author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

---

**2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300**  
**1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023**  
**1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833**

*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

[www.unityfuneralchapels.com](http://www.unityfuneralchapels.com)

email: [unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)

*"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"*

