

Celebration of Life for



Daughter

Sister

Mother

Auntie

Friend



Protector

Comforter

Nurturer

Compassionate

Provider



Confidant

Mother-in-Law

Worshipper

Supporter

Companion



Grandmother

Wife

Soulmate

Partner

Survivor



Mary E. Johnson

May 15, 1940 - June 10, 2017

Obituary

Mary Elizabeth Johnson was born on May 15, 1940 in Wilmington, North Carolina to the late Walter Albert Johnson and Mary Elizabeth Johnson (nee Carter). She was the eldest of six children (three sisters and two brothers). Bearing the same name as her mother, she was often called "Little Mary Elizabeth" throughout her early childhood years.

Mary received her education throughout the Wilmington public school system and in May 1958, she earned her high school Diploma as a graduate of Willinston High School. Less than two months later on July 17, 1958, Mary became a mother for the first time giving birth to a son, David Michael Johnson, the eldest of her five children. Mary was known for having a very determined, outgoing and fearless type of spirit. She was always looking for change, advancement and new opportunities, a sort of free spirit so to speak. Growing restless in her small town of Wilmington, she decided to take the chance of a lifetime relocating to the big city of Los Angeles, California. There she was hired as a caregiver to the only child of a very wealthy family. Earning very good money, Mary was able to provide and support her parents and son back home in Wilmington. She also saved money planning yet another move to another big city which would ultimately become her home until her untimely death. She moved to the area of New York City better known to most as "Harlem!" She worked briefly as a waitress in the Chock Full O' Nuts restaurant where she not only met her very good longtime friend, Sophania "Sophie" Brown, but met and married her late husband, Alfred McKoy, Sr. Together Mary and Alfred welcomed two sons, Alfred McKoy, Jr. and Patrick McKoy. Their time together would be short lived and she was widowed due to the passing of her husband. She eventually found love again and her union with the late Bert Henderson, Sr. of Wilmington, NC would produce two daughters, Bertrina M. Johnson and Brenda G. Johnson. She worked for a short time as a Bell Atlantic long distance operator and then as a cook for The Langston Hughes Head Start program in her neighborhood. But it wasn't until many years later that she would meet Donald Whitehead, the man that would ultimately become her soulmate, spending a total of 37 years together. Donald dedicated his life after retirement to giving Mary the type of hands on care that only true love could render. He lovingly cared for her up until the very moment of her unforeseen and untimely death. Mary was preceded in death by her sisters, Juanita Johnson and Willie Mae Johnson and her brothers, William Johnson and Walter Johnson.

Mary was well known for being a very outspoken woman. She spoke her mind at all times and never bit her tongue for anyone. She often "said what she meant and meant what she said" and was well respected throughout her neighborhood and with family and friends alike because of it. She prided herself on being very independent and it showed throughout her everyday life. She was an elegant and sophisticated lady who harnessed a certain level of class like only she could. She was thought to be a perfectionist and did not believe in doing anything halfway. A self-proclaimed socialite, Mary absolutely LOVED to cook and entertain. She had a special talent like no other around the kitchen and often commanded an audience with her "Life of the Party" personality. She was an avid music lover. She took an immense level of pride in being a homemaker and caring for her loved ones. She was very giving and wholeheartedly believed in charity. She loved traveling and celebrating holidays/birthdays in extremely big ways. She was an overflowing fountain of wisdom and insight. She had a special talent for storytelling and could easily make you laugh hysterically or leave you in deep thought after listening to one of her stories; most times giving you a little of both. Throughout it all, she always made time to praise and serve the Lord. She was certainly an original, genuine, one of a kind woman who did things uniquely her way and she will be greatly missed for there shall NEVER be another Mary E. Johnson-McKoy.....

On Saturday, June 10th, 2017 she departed this life in Harlem Hospital surrounded by family and friends.... Left behind to carry forth her legacy and fond memories: her Lifetime Partner and Soulmate, Donald B. Whitehead; her only surviving sister, Madeline Baldwin; five children, David M. Johnson (Vanessa Butcher-Johnson), Alfred McKoy, Jr., Patrick McKoy, Bertrina M. Johnson (James L. Garner, Jr.) and Brenda G. Johnson; five grandchildren, Jenele L. Johnson, David M. Johnson II, Ashley M. Johnson, Dontre B. Batiz and Walter A. Johnson; one goddaughter, Roniesha Greene; four great-grandchildren, Brandon T. Johnson, Yusef C. Hough, Aaniyah M. Johnson and Nyla D. Wade; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. The family would like to especially recognize and extend a special acknowledgement of love and gratitude to Mrs. Pearl for sharing in her last moments and being there to lend support and words of encouragement as only a true friend could!

Memorial Service

Saturday, June 17, 2017 - 2:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Recessional

Final Disposition

*Woodlawn Crematory
Bronx, New York*



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.*

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