

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Edith H. Johnson*

**Sunrise**  
May 14, 1926

**Sunset**  
May 4, 2020



*Service*

*Saturday, May 9, 2020 • 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

# Obituary

On Monday, May 4, 2020 God dispatched His angel to the bedside of Edith Hattie Johnson and whispered, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." At that moment, Edith smiled and took her flight.

Edith was born to the late Eddie Herbert Royster and Annie Pearl Burgess Royster on May 14, 1926, in Littleton, North Carolina. During her early life, she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and joined the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Littleton. Her formal education was received in the Halifax County School System, and she graduated from the former McIver High School in 1948. Edith furthered her education at De Shazor's Beauty College in Durham, North Carolina, where she studied esthetics and Cosmetology.

On December 28, 1951, Edith married the late James Weldon Johnson in Norfolk, Virginia. The couple remained secretly married for over a year in Littleton, North Carolina. Having a thirst to seek employment opportunities in the North, Edith and James moved to East Orange, New Jersey in the spring of 1952.

To this union, two children were born James Weldon Johnson Jr. and Vonda Kay Johnson.

Edith remained fervent in her fellowship with God, she joined the Mt. Olive Baptist Church – East Orange in 1963 where she remained a loyal member till the end.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by three brothers, Claude Herman Royster, William Edward Royster and Ollie Page Royster.

Those remaining not to mourn their loss but to cherish many precious memories are her son, James W. Johnson Jr. and Daughter-in-law Gwen of East Orange, NJ and daughter Vonda Kay Johnson of East Orange, NJ; one granddaughter, Bria Kay Johnson; one aunt Laurel Shaw of Baltimore, MD; one niece, five nephews, two sisters-in-law; and a host of loving cousins, other relatives and many friends who will all miss her earthly presence.

# *Order of Service*

## **Processional**

### **Selection**

“I’ve Been Redeemed”  
Deacon Everett Thurmond

### **Scripture**

Old Testament  
New Testament  
Deacon Kenneth Stafford

### **Obituary**

### **Prayer of Comfort**

Rev. Earl R. Thurmond

### **Selection**

“Just A Closer Walk with Thee”  
Deacon Everett Thurmond

### **Eulogy**

Rev. Michael J. Jordan

## **A Silent Moment of Reflection**

### **Final Commitment**

Rev. Michael J. Jordan

## **Recessional**

# *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 of **Edith H. Johnson** wishes to express our sincere thanks for the prayers and other expressions of love during our time of bereavement.

### Professional Services Provided By

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