

*Celebrating The Life of*



*Meta M. Johnson*

**Sunrise**  
*May 11, 1952*

**Sunset**  
*May 8, 2014*

*Saturday, May 17, 2014 -11:00 a.m.*

**WOODY "HOME FOR SERVICES"**

163 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

*Rev. Dr. Leora Liggins, Officiating*  
*Myron Smith, Organist*

## Obituary

**Meta Antoinette Mullen Johnson** was the kind of teacher who was accessible 24/7 to students, whether they were in her classroom or not. Her husband, Jacob A. Johnson, Jr., says the one question she asked every child she saw, was what grade they were in. “She truly loved teaching,” says Jacob. He says everything was about the children and what was best for them. And children seemed to naturally gravitate toward her. Perhaps their attraction was as much about her petite size, and 4 feet 11 inch stature, as the warmth she generated toward them.

Mrs. Johnson passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2014 after a long illness. She and her husband were preparing for a weekend trip to attend the university graduation of nephew, Colby Mullen and to celebrate her May 11 birthday.

Born on May 11, 1952 at Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News, VA. She was a student at Thomas Jefferson Elementary, Walter Reed Elementary, Hunnington Annex and Newport News High Schools. As a teenager, she was active as a Y-Teen, Peninsula League of Women Debutante and played the clarinet in the high school band. She attended Zion Baptist Church with her family. At Hampton Institute (now University) she majored in early childhood education. In college she was a member of the Early Childhood Club and Early Child Department Advisory Board, the Student National Education Association and a tutor in the urban affairs program. She was also a resident assistant at Twichell Dormitory.

Her first job after graduation was at Dutrow Elementary School in Newport News. A little later her best friend and fellow teacher, Valerie Scott Price, says the two of them were First Step teachers and wrote curriculum for one of the city’s first preschool program at N.B. Clark Elementary. She later moved to New Jersey as an educational sales representative selling computer programs to schools. But after about four years she went back to the classroom. She taught preschool and kindergarten in Virginia. Then second, third and fourth grades at Clinton Elementary School in Maplewood, NJ. In all she spent 30 years as a teacher before retiring.

She was excited about her nephew’s graduation and hearing him sing the national anthem at Richmond’s Virginia Commonwealth University’s commencement. That also meant she would miss the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion of her college classmates. In 1999, Mrs. Johnson was class leader and headed up the planning for the 15<sup>th</sup> reunion. She is probably one of the very few alumni known by everyone in her class and led a very successful event that year.

On February 13, 1988, she married Jacob A. Johnson, Jr. She often joked that he didn’t know what he was getting into when he married her. Jacob says there was never a dull moment with his wife. Friend and former classmate, Theresa Matthews says Meta was as loud as she was small and she was always there when you needed her. “Once you met her, you wouldn’t forget her,” says Matthews.

In addition to her husband and nephew, she’s survived by: her brother, John H. Mullen, Jr. and his wife, Susan; mother-in-law, Marian Johnson; goddaughter, Marcia S. Price; godson, Nicholas Johnson; aunts, uncles, nephews, other relatives and friends. Her parents, Claudine and John H. Mullen, Sr. preceded her in death.

She was greatly loved and will be missed by many.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Seating of Family.....Funeral Director

Welcome.....James “Blue” Cody

Solo .....“How Great Thou Art” Tyrone Dunlap

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 61.....Nicholas Johnson

New Testament - Revelation 7:9-17.....Marcia S. Price

Prayer of Comfort.....Marcia S. Price

Solo.....“Center Of My Joy” Archie Colander

Reflections and Remarks.....Family and Friends (2 minutes please)

Acknowledgements.....Carolyn Oliver

Obituary.....Sheila Solomon

Solo.....“God Has Smiled On Me” Archie Colander

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Leora Liggins

Christ Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church • East Orange, New Jersey

Tribute.....“Because You Loved Me” Vernon “Ian” George

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

## Cremation

Rosedale Crematory

Orange, New Jersey

## Repast

*Immediately following the services family and  
friends are invited to the repast at*

*The Appian Way*

*619 Langdon Street • Orange, New Jersey 07050*

*Ph.(973)-678- 0313*

# *Come to me*

*God saw she was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be  
So He gently closed those loving eyes  
And whispered "Come to me"  
The days of toil and nights of pain  
The weary hours have passed  
The patient gentle worn out frame  
Has found sweet rest at last.  
Day and night we stood by her  
And saw her in pain,  
Anxiously awaiting her cure  
But our waiting was in vain.  
God who knoweth all things best  
Eased her suffering, gave her rest  
She is gone but not forgotten,  
Never will our memories fade  
Sweetest thoughts of her will ever linger  
Round the place where she rests.*

*-Author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family of Meta M. Johnson will remember and cherish your many expressions of love, sympathy, prayers, messages and courtesies so graciously extended. Thank you and may God richly bless you.*

---

Professional Services Provided By

*Woody "Home For Services"*

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050  
ph (973) 674-0814 • fax (973) 674-2055

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

