

*In Loving Memory of
Willie Brad Johnson, Sr.*

Sunrise
October 28, 1951



Sunset
July 13, 2015



Service

Friday, July 17, 2015- 12:00 Noon

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

112-42 Springfield Blvd. • Queens Village, New York 11429

Pastor A'Kim Beecham, Officiating

Obituary

Willie Brad Johnson Sr., affectionately known as "Big Willie" was born on October 28, 1951 in Newberry, South Carolina to Marseille Johnson and Otis Caldwell. His tender years were spent in the South. He was raised by his grandparents, Robert and Louise Johnson. There he attended Drayton Street grade school and Newberry High School. In 1968, at the age of 17, Willie followed his Uncle Chick (Robert Louis) to New York City. He moved to 144th Street in South Ozone Park, where he continued his education at Woodrow Wilson High School, and met the Love of his life, Hattie Johnson.

Willie and Hattie became friends instantly. After a two-year courtship, he asked for her hand in marriage. They became man and wife on July 15, 1972. Their union brought forth two children who he loved dearly—Willie Jr. and Lisa—and a 43 year bond. Willie Sr. was a proud husband and father, and it showed in his commitment. For Willie, family was everything and became his life-long focus. With Hattie, he also raised three nieces (Traveena, Tasha, Ayisha) and nephew, Louis. As well, he became father to Amanda, Amir and Celina. He made a home for them in Queens, New York.

Being a grandparent was a rewarding role for Willie. More times than not, he could be found sitting in his favorite chair sharing intimate moments with his older ones (Shanece, BJ, Ebony) and coddling his younger ones (Jalisa, Janelle, Sarai). He did anything for them as he's done for many others. Willie was a consummate steward of family and a pillar of support. His door was always open to those in need, for many, Willie's house was a home. He gave selflessly. He was a favorite among his cousins, nieces, nephews and peers. He made time to listen and share encouraging words with them all.

Willie dedicated 25 years of service to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center before retiring. He was all about serving. He was a foster parent with his wife, for over twenty years, and became adoptive parents to his youngest three children. As well, he went on to start a childcare business with her.

In his spare time, Willie was an avid sports lover who was enthusiastic about football and basketball, his music and his cars. Each was a therapeutic pastime of his, coming second to spending precious moments with his family. In his heyday, he was an extremely sharp dresser. Willie had an infectious smile and light-hearted chuckle. He made everyone laugh with his honest criticism—nobody was exempt. At family affairs, he was notorious for kicking people out—with ease. He poked fun with popular phrases, his latest was "You feel me..." and we always did.

Willie was a Great man. Willie was a Gentle man. Willie is deeply loved. Willie will be missed.

Willie made his transition on July 13, 2015, at 3:36 a.m. He leaves to join his grandparents, Robert and Louise Johnson; aunts, Edna Hogan, Margaret Shelton and Nettie Mae Young; uncles, Thomas Johnson, Willie Morris and Raymond Louis; cousins, Betty, Andre Simpson, and Patrick Johnson; in-laws, Lonnie and Ida Mae Harris; nephew, Kelvin Lockhart; and nieces, Vanessa Lockhart and Ayisha Keith.

Willie leaves his memory behind to be cherished by his wife, Hattie Nancy Johnson, and his children, Willie Brad Johnson Jr. (Lavelle), Lisa Monique Burrowes (Jay), Ariel Johnson, Amir Johnson and Celina Johnson; his grandchildren, Shanece Johnson, Willie Brad Johnson III, Ebony Johnson, Jalisa Burrowes, Janelle Burrowes, and great-granddaughter, Sarai Mayo.

Willie has a host of family who are dear to him, who he leaves behind to mourn and celebrate his life: Sister, Helena Ann Bryant (Neville), Uncle, Robert Louis "Chick" Johnson (Jean), Aunts, Lydia Johnson (O'faire); nieces, Ida Traveena Harris, Tasha Lenora Bryant, and a host of others; nephews, Louis Lavontes Garcia, Lateek Carter, Neville Bryant, Aaron Bryant, Michael Green, and a host of others; cousins, Patricia, Charles, Bobby, Adrienne, Janice; David, Mary, Mark, Vera, Danny; Richard, Melinda and a host of others; brother and sister-in-laws, David Lockhart (Patricia), Virgil Willie Harris, Violet Harris-Green, and Ida Bernice Hogan; and scores of special friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

“Amazing Grace”

Scriptures

Prayer of Consolation

Selection

“It’s All God”

Acknowledgements

Poem

Tasha Lenora Bryant

Obituary

Ida Traveena Harris

Selection

“Take Me To The King”

Eulogy

Pastor Akim Beechman

Viewing

Benediction

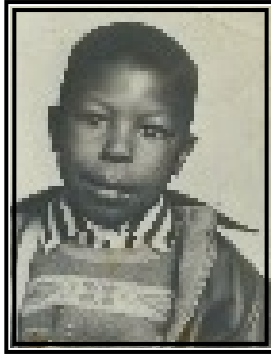
Recessional

Cremation

All Souls Crematory
East Elmhurst, New York

Repast

The Home of Jay and Lisa Burrowes
105-21 189th Street • St. Albans, New York 11412



When I Must Leave You

*When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years
But start out bravely with a gallant smile
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same
Feed not your loneliness on empty days
But fill each waking hour in useful ways
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near
And never, never be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

-Helen Steiner Rice

Acknowledgements

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown
to their family during this hour of bereavement.*

May God Bless and Keep You!

Professional Services Provided By:

E.L. George Funeral Services

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