

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
Mary L. Cheatham

Sunrise
April 18, 1940

Sunset
June 12, 2026



Obituary

Mary Lousie Johnson Cheatham, affectionately known as Ms. Mary was born on April 18, 1940, in Sylacauga, Alabama. She was a loving, funny, and a gentle woman whose life reflected strength, grace, and devotion to the people and values she held dear. Her story began in Alabama and carried her through a life marked by hard work, family commitment, and a warm spirit that touched everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Ms. Mary was educated at East Highland High School, where she built the foundation for a life of perseverance and purpose. From an early age, she understood the value of determination and responsibility, qualities that would later define both her personal and professional life. She carried those lessons with her throughout the years and applied them in every role she embraced.

For three decades, Ms. Mary was a self-made business entrepreneur alongside her late husband, building a life through dedication, teamwork, and vision. Her work ethic remained steady and admirable, and she took great pride in the business life she helped sustain. She later spent more than 20 years with Shoprite in Little Falls, New Jersey, where she became a familiar and respected presence until her retirement in 2019. Her career reflected a woman who understood service, commitment, and the importance of showing up with excellence day after day.

Beyond her work, Ms. Mary lived a life rooted in family, faith, and simple joys. She was spiritual and carried herself with a quiet sense of purpose that guided her through every season of life. She found happiness in gardening, cooking, watching her Western shows, and spending time with her family. These interests were more than hobbies, because they were part of the rhythm of a life built around love, comfort, and connection. Her home and her presence were places where people felt welcomed and cared for.

Ms. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Mary L. and Robert C. Johnson, as well as her brothers, Samuel L. Johnson, Charles Johnson, and Robert Johnson.

She departed this life on Friday, June 12, 2026, in Paterson, New Jersey, from natural causes.

She leaves to cherish loving memories to her siblings, Ada Mae Gamble, Larry C. Johnson, and Theresa Ann Cook, along with her legacies, Thaddeus Johnson, Carol V. Cheatham, and Willie M. Cheatham. She also leaves behind beautiful grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will carry forward her memory, her influence, and the many lessons she shared through her life.

To the family and friends that knew Ms. Mary will remember her as a woman of warmth and strength, someone who could bring comfort with a smile and joy with a kind word. She had a way of making people feel seen, and her laughter and gentle spirit left lasting impressions. Her life was not defined by grand announcements, but by the steady and meaningful ways she loved, worked, and cared for others. In every room she entered, she brought a calm and loving presence that will not be forgotten.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME

256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. Kenneth D.R. Clayton, Officiating

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

Acknowledgements & Obituary

Selection

Words of Comfort

Rev. Dr. Kenneth D.R. Clayton

Recessional

Interment

Fair Lawn Cemetery

22-21 Maple Ave.

Fair Lawn, New Jersey

Today

Today the music played,
and the heavens opened up
God called on me and said I had done enough
I know this may be difficult
as you watch me go away
But cry tears of joy because I am going home,
and you'll be there too one day
Look to God for comfort
and he will wipe your tears
Look back and smile at all our happy
memories over the years
I am at peace now, no more struggle or pain
Gods Kingdom just rejoiced because
an angel was gained

Written by, Shannell G. Griggs

Acknowledgment

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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