

*Celebrating The Life
Of
Barbara Ann Johnson-Munford*

*Sunrise
August 15, 1938*

*Sunset
February 4, 2020*



Tuesday, February 11, 2020- 11:00 a.m.

Messiah Baptist Church

13 Oak St. • East Orange, NJ 07018

Reverend Dana P. Owens, Officiating

Obituary

Barbara Ann Johnson-Munford was born August 15, 1938 in Newark, New Jersey to Carolyn Johnson and Walter Jones. Barbara was the eldest of six children: Patricia, Charles, Al, Tonya and Richard.

Barbara grew up on Linden Avenue in East Orange where she attended East Orange public schools. She was baptized as a child and became a longtime member of Messiah Baptist Church in East Orange, until her health prevented her from attending. She married Charles Munford in 1956 and six children were born from this union. Barbara had a long-time career in nursing service as a Certified Nursing Assistant in the County of Essex at various locations for more than 25 years and was a dedicated practitioner who took pride in caring for her patients.

Barbara grew up in a close-knit East Orange neighborhood, Oak Street and Linden Avenue, where friends were like family. The Johnsons were part of a “community” such as the Wilkes, Paris, Branch and Lowery families. It was in her early years where she met and became friends with her future husband Charles “Chuckie.” She was a dedicated homemaker – her children were taught to be responsible, independent and caring. She was also a generous, charitable soul who was known as a fun-loving person who loved to laugh.

In 1967 Barbara and Chuckie relocated the family to New Britain, Connecticut becoming entrepreneurs, where they created various enterprises such as Munford Superette, in addition to other small business ventures. As a young mother she felt the importance of instilling in her children financial independence and self-reliance, which was evident in how she managed the Superette, also in how she raised her children.

During midlife, Barbara became a grandmother for the first time to Regina. She embraced this new role with the same love and dedication she had when mothering her first six children. Barbara always had a strong mothering instinct. After her mother died young, Barbara, along with her sister Pat and with help from their brother Charles, raised the younger siblings Al, Tonya and Ricky, all of whom looked at Barbara not only as a big sister, but also as a surrogate mother.

Upon her return to New Jersey in 1981, Barbara continued to raise her family in her childhood neighborhood. She resumed her love of entrepreneurship where she joined her husband as owners of Munford’s Grocery on the corner of Oak Street and Elmwood Avenue. During these years, Barbara pursued her love of travel by cruising the Caribbean along with an annual trip to Cape Cod with family and friends. She loved to celebrate family events, rarely missed a party and for years would dance the night away. Barbara will always be remembered for her infectious smile, her love of parenting, and her sense of adventure and fun.

Barbara is preceded in death by her husband Charles, Sr., son Charles, Jr., mother Carolyn Johnson, father, Walter Jones and sister Pat Caraway. She leaves to cherish her memory her children, Deborah Munford, Lydia Munford-Armstrong (Robert), Troy Munford (Yolanda), Sherry Munford, Tamara Munford and Regina Munford; eight grandchildren, Timkia, Jamilla, Troy, Jr., Monica, Yusef, Kamilah and Marques. She also leaves four great-grandchildren, Jasir, A’Mare, Ahnya and Mekai, Cousin Marie Jackson, Aunt Ruth Sneed and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Order of Service

Processional.....Clergy
Opening PrayerReverend Dana P. Owens
Selection“His Eye is on the Sparrow”
Old Testament Reading.....Michele Davenport
Psalms 23
New Testament Reading.....Hassan Munford
John 14:1-7
Selection..... Amazing Grace - (David Jackson)
Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Damon Dukes
RockLife Church, Swedesboro, NJ
Family Reflections.....Regina Munford
Al Muhammad
Selection.....David Jackson
Acknowledgements & Remarks.....(2 minutes please)
Reading of the Obituary.....Farah Muhammad
EulogyReverend Dana P. Owens
Recessional.....Clergy & Family

Interment

*Glendale Cemetery
Bloomfield, New Jersey*

Repast

*Following the Interment Family and Friends are invited back for a
Repast in **The Church Fellowship Hall***

Miss Me, But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the
road and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little-but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me-but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at the things we use to do
Miss me-but let me go.*

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family of **Barbara Ann Johnson-Munford** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many kind acts of comforting expressions of sympathy extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and concerns.*

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