

*A Celebration
Of the Life of*

GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

**No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you.**

Acknowledgement

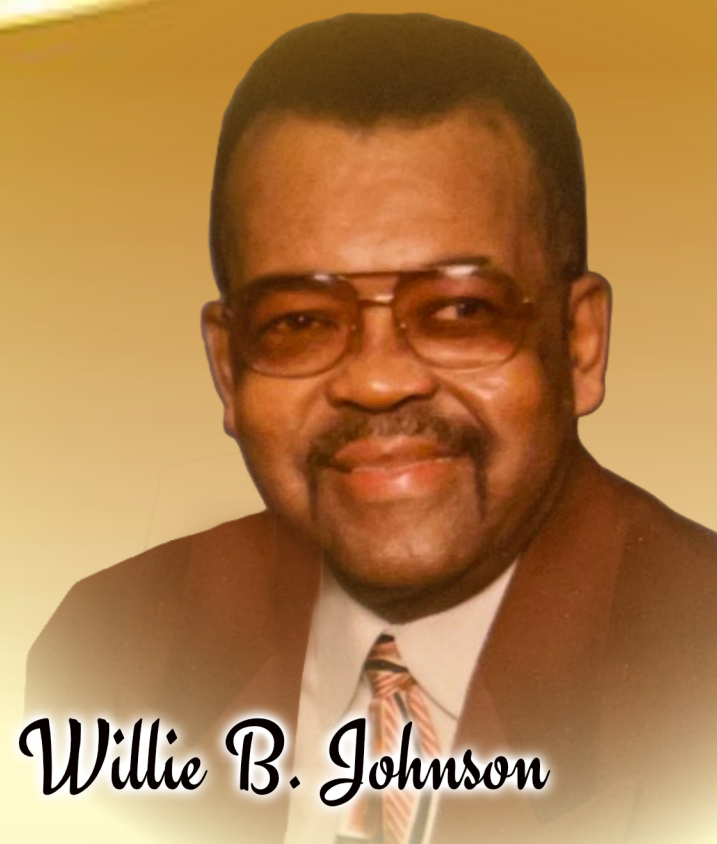
*The family of the late **Mr. Willie B. Johnson** wishes to express its sincere appreciation for your sympathetic generousities bestowed on us during the demise of its loved one. Please know that our period of sorrow has been lessened because of your calls, visits, prayers and other acts of kindness shown to us. We thank God for family and friends and church family like you.
The Willie B. Johnson Family*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000



Willie B. Johnson

**Sunrise: March 29, 1936
Sunset: February 14, 2021**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.
NEWARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
723 Clinton Ave. & South 14th Street
Newark, New Jersey
PASTOR EUGENE LAWTON, OFFICIATING**



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Song Director Andre Hart.....Newark Church of Christ

Processional Recording by The Exciting Enchanters

Selection“I’ll Live in Glory”

Bible Inspiration..... Brian Coleman

PrayerWillie Lee, Staten Island, NY Congregational

Selection..... Chris Turner, Burlington, NJ

Acknowledgement of Condolence..... Iris Kuku

ReflectionsStanley Carter
Mikki Taylor, Terrance Wood

Musical SelectionsJohnson Singers

EulogyDr. Eugene Lawton, Minister
Newark Church of Christ

Recessional Recording..... by The Exciting Enchanters

PALLBEARERS

Terrance Wood, Luis Arias, Michael Canady
Terrence Best, Sr., Walker Wright, Terrence Best, Jr.

Interment
Fairmount Cemetery
Newark, New Jersey

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MR. WILLIE BEN JOHNSON, the oldest of four siblings, was born to the late Thomas and Susie Johnson on March 29, 1936 in Montgomery, Alabama. He grew up in Montgomery and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. He sang with a trio in high school, winning numerous awards. He was employed at the Coca Cola Company for many years. At an early age, he became a member of the First People Baptist Church in Montgomery. He started a gospel group, the Dixie Travelers and they sang together for many years. Willie taught his sister, Pearlle J. Foxx, to sing, who later formed her own gospel group.

Willie Ben moved to Newark, NJ in 1965. In 1967, he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Jessie Mae Gillis of Montgomery, AL in Newark, NJ. They were married for 53 years and were each other's best friend. He was employed as a welder at Atlantic Metal Company, Springfield, NJ until his retirement in 2005. He sang with the Exciting Gospel Premiers, Jersey City, NJ.

During a Gospel Meeting at the Newark Church of Christ, Newark, NJ, with the guest evangelist K. K. Mitchell of Montgomery, AL, Willie Ben and his wife, Jessie, were baptized into Christ on September 29, 1967 under the leadership of Dr. Eugene Lawton, Minister. He was a gifted, great singer and a faithful member of the Newark Church of Christ, lead singer of the Exciting Enchanters and the Johnson Singers. He leaves an illustrious musical legacy as great singer, musical icon, mentor and a host of unforgettable songs

with his iconic touch.

Willie Ben, Jessie Johnson, (his wife), Gussie Gillis (his sister-in-law), Everleen Wright, Otis Coney and Diane Lawton founded a gospel group named The Exciting Enchanters. Additional members were added to the original group: Pamela Askew, Ray Wright, Terrance Best and Portia Askew. They travelled all over the East Coast, Texas, Chicago, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina and many other places singing praises to the Lord. His signature songs that he led were: I'll Keep On Living After I Die, The Lord Will Make A Way Some How, Show Me The Way, When The Saints Go Marching In, We Are The Ones and Stand By Me. Brother Willie Ben sang with and trained the Johnson Singers, this group was named in his honor for his many years of singing. Willie Ben enjoyed fishing and cooking. He also was a trophy winning bowler. As you can see by the photos, Willie was known to be a sharp dresser.

After a brief period of illness, he departed this life on Sunday morning, February 14, 2021.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his beloved wife, Jessie Mae Johnson, one sister, Pearlle J. Foxx, (Herman) Montgomery, AL, one sister-in-law, and one brother-in-law, fifty nephews and nieces and a host of in-laws, other relatives and friends.

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