

*In Loving Memory of*



*Robert L. Johnson*

**Sunrise**  
**September 27, 1948**

**Sunset**  
**February 26, 2021**

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - 10am**

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Bishop Charles E. Wright, D.D., Pastor

*Greater Refuge Temple*

Eulogist

Bishop William Wilkins, Jr., Assistant Pastor

*Greater Refuge Temple*

Officiant

# *Obituary*

## **A Celebration of Life**

Our beloved, **Robert L. Johnson** was born in Harlem, New York, on September 27, 1948, to Cleveland and Caledonia Johnson. He was the oldest of three children. We were blessed to have spiritual and loving parents, who were faithful members of White Rock Baptist Church in Harlem, New York.

When the family moved to the Bronx, Bobby, as he was affectionately called, attended New York City Public Schools, and graduated from Taft High School. It was during these formative years that Bobby's creative gifts were discovered. Bobby was doubly blessed with artistic and musical talents. After high school, Bobby attended the renowned Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. He worked for many years in the retail industry at Pearl Paint, from where he retired.

Bobby's greatest blessing came on April 5, 1967, at Greater Refuge Temple in Harlem, New York, under the anointed Pastorate of Apostle William L. Bonner, Sr., where he was baptized in water in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of his sins. Bobby then received the gift of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues as the Spirit of God gave the utterance! Bobby was fellowshipped into the Greater Refuge Temple family, and welcomed to the Radio Choir under the dynamic leadership of the now Dr. Jennifer McCarroll Johnson. Jennifer recognized his melodious tenor voice, and Bobby became one of the choir's lead singers. "Guide Me Oh Thou Great Jehovah" and "How Great Thou Art" were just two of the songs we were blessed to hear him sing.

Bobby was also known for his creative gift for decorating! He could dramatically change the look of a space to opulence. We saw this time after time at our Black History dinners, weddings, anniversaries and other functions.

Bobby was a loving son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend. He was always there to celebrate his family! We were so blessed to have such a wonderful and caring family member!

On the afternoon of Friday, February 26th, just a few days before his sisters planned to visit him and take his requested Snickers candy bars, Starbucks Green Tea Frappuccino and pizza, God dispatched His angels to carry Bobby to his heavenly home!

Bobby will be sorely missed. He was preceded in his passing by our parents: "Popi" and Ma. His loving memory will be forever cherished by his sisters: Ruth (Bishop Billy G. Newton) of Orlando, Florida and Bunny Shell of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; niece, Rachel Tyson of Frisco, Texas; nephew, Malachi Shell (Jelisa) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; an aunt, Mrs. Patyse Dekle of Texas; adopted brother, Tony Shell of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; adopted sisters: Sister Joyce Taylor of North Carolina, Doris Johnson of New York, DeeDee Maxwell of New York and Sister Kenover Jackson of Indianapolis, Indiana; a host of other nieces, nephews and cousins; our Tyson, Bryant, White and Barnes families; the Greater Refuge Temple, Christ Church and Word of God Church families, and hundreds of friends from across the United States, the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World.

Take your rest in Jesus, Bobby! We will see you in the morning!

# Order of Service

A Celebration of Life

Eulogist—Bishop Charles E. Wright, Sr., D.D., Senior Pastor,  
Greater Refuge Temple

Officiant—Bishop William Wilkins, Jr., Assistant Pastor,  
Greater Refuge Temple

Musical Prelude.....Elder Julian Varner

Processional..... “He’ll Make It Alright” - Clergy and Family

Invocation

Old Testament Scripture - Psalm 23.....Brother Malachi Shell

New Testament Scripture -1 Thessalonians 4:13-18...Sister Rachel Tyson

Acknowledgements and Reading of the Obituary.....Sister Joyce Taylor

Ministry in Song.....Sister Takeytha Johnson

Remarks.....Clergy

Special Remarks.....Bishop Billy G. Newton, D.D.  
Senior Pastor, Word of God Church, Orlando, Florida

Ministry in Song.....Recording of Brother Robert Johnson

Introduction of the Eulogist.....Bishop William Wilkins, Jr.

Words of Comfort.....Bishop Charles E. Wright, Sr., D.D., Eulogist

Final Viewing and Closing of Bier

Recessional

INTERMENT:  
Pinelawn Memorial Park Cemetery  
Farmingdale, New York

## SPECIAL THANKS

Words are not sufficient to express our heartfelt thanks for the amazing outpouring of love and kindness we received from so many of our family and friends. Your phone calls, text messages, and FaceBook posts are so encouraging! Thank you for the beautiful cards, floral arrangements, planters and gifts.

We could not have done this without the support and acts of kindness from Gail McAdoo, Mona O'Shea, Caz Hart, Doris Johnson, and DeeDee Maxwell, who were there to assist our brother during his illness.

Also, we are eternally indebted to the Honorable Bishop Charles E. Wright, Sr., the Honorable Bishop William Wilkins, Jr., Dr. Jennifer McCarroll Johnson, Lady Diondra Newton and the Greater Refuge Temple family for their untiring labors of love and assistance in the planning of our Homegoing Celebration for our brother. May God continue to bless you all abundantly, as we know He will!

Love you all,  
The Family

**2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300**  
**1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023**  
**1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833**



*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

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

email: [unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)

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