



Celebrating the Life of
James "Duke" Johnson, Jr.

Sunrise
August 25, 1985

Sunset
October 30, 2021



Obituary

James Irving Johnson Jr., affectionately known as “Duke” was born on August 25th, 1985 in the Bronx, NY. He entered this world weighing 10lbs and 10oz, feet first, ready to conquer the world. He’s been a lover of good food since the womb. He was born to mother, Denise Jenkins and father, James Irving Johnson Sr. He is their first son but second child. He has an older sister, Latoya Lashawn Johnson and a younger brother Matthew Phillip Johnson. James called his mother “Big Draco” and “Momma Love”, his father, “Pops” and “Hollywood”, his sister “Toy”, “Boo” and “Baby Love”, and his brother, “P” and “P.Diddy”.

As a child, James went by the names “Junior”, “Junie” and “Boonie”. He spent a lot of his baby and toddler days with his now late maternal grandmother, Rebecca Jenkins. She had a first hand in spoiling him with delicious homemade dishes. James Jr. attended C.S. 150x; Charles James Fox Elementary School in the South Bronx. He was very well known around the school for his many antics. Upon graduation, he went on to attend I.S. 116 Rafael Hernandez Junior High School. There is where he really began to cultivate his sportsmanship and love for basketball. He used the skills and techniques taught to him by his father from about the age of two.

There were many days and nights spent on the court when his father taught him how to properly play. Those long days paid off, as James entered high school where he embraced and owned the name “Duke”, which started as a joke. While attending Smith High School, he studied mechanics and wood shop. He played basketball for a local Bronx team, where he won many trophies and awards. He left high school after the 11th grade and completed a trade school for plumbing and electrical work. James was also an amazing and avid chess player.

As an adult, Duke worked in various settings, finding his niche in food services. He taught himself how to clean and filet whole fish on a professional level, how to smoke meat, and how to understand the science behind grilling meat to cook it to perfection. Traditional schooling was not for him, but he always enjoyed learning. History was his favorite subject, he was like a walking encyclopedia and he would argue you down about facts and dates. Duke strived to improve on the many skills his father passed on to him, as he was very proud to be his Junior. He also had his hand in music and fashion. He was a lover of sneakers, hats and jackets. He and his little “brother from another mother”, KG, were working on a clothing line. If it was dope yet different it was Duke! He would either say it was Hard or Play!

Duke was working very hard with his younger and talented cousin, Jah Sav, as he had many great plans for his future in the music industry. He enlisted the support of other family members such as Tramaine and Jeff in order to create that heat or fire! In 2020 he even started a local catering business in Virginia where he resided, which he called no other than “Dukes”. He was well known for creating and cooking delicious dishes for his family and co-workers. Last August, with the support of some family he catered his very first wedding. He was so excited and proud.

James was and will forever be an amazing father to his three beautiful children; Jordan, James III and Jasmine. He enjoyed everything about being their dad. He never complained or gave up, instead he worked hard and even sacrificed to ensure they had the things they needed and wanted. He alternated the weeks so that each got their own time to shop for clothes, shoes and other luxuries desired. He was also a dope Godfather to his two Godchildren, Kobi and Kailani.

James I. Johnson Jr. will forever be remembered for his love, support, sense of humor, protection, cooking, fashion sense, debating abilities and his ability to own and or control a room. Though he is no longer physically with us we carry him in our hearts and memories. On the morning of Saturday, October 30th, 2021, he decided it was too much and he was ready to stop trying. Duke fought for over a year. He defied the odds and limitations setup even before him. For these reasons he will forever be our SUPERHERO! We are BEYOND proud of him for his desire to fight. We will NEVER be upset with him for deciding that he, in HIS unfortunate and undeserved circumstances, decided he was done.

James leaves behind his parents Denise and James, his siblings Latoya and Matthew, his children Jordan, James III and Jasmine. As well as his Aunts Pamela, Edna, Dianna and Wanda, his uncle Joseph and a host cousins and other relatives who dearly love him. Everyone knew Duke had no friends, so when we say family you all know who that includes. As he would always say “I love you to the moon and back”, WE ALL LOVE YOU TOO BIG BABY. You are FOREVER in our hearts. Until we meet again King!

Celebration of Life
Monday, November 22, 2021 - 12:30 p.m.

T. Carrillo Funeral Service LLC

4363 Bronx Blvd
Bronx, New York 10466

Order of Service

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

-OLD TESTAMENT

-NEW TESTAMENT

PRAYER OF COMFORT

SELECTION

READING OF THE OBITUARY

TRIBUTES

SELECTION

EULOGY

CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

COMMITTAL

FINAL VIEWING DIRECTED BY : T. CARRILLO STAFF

RECESSIONAL

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 for long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that once we shared
Miss me, but let me go.
For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the master plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at all the things we used to do
Miss me, but let me go.



LOVE YOU TO THE MOON AND BACK

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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