

Mr. Willie James Johnson, Sr.

October 23, 1936 - November 18, 2017

Celebrating The Life Of Willie James Johnson, Sr.:

Willie James Johnson, Sr. was born on October 23, 1936 in Birmingham, Alabama to Roxie Johnson and Worcy Crawford, Sr. He attended the public school system of Birmingham and was a proud member of the 1955 graduating class of A.H. Parker High School.

After graduation, Willie served in the Army of the United States from 1955 until 1957, which included a tour of duty in Germany. Upon completion of serving his country and being honorably discharged from the military, Willie returned to Birmingham, Alabama. Upon relocating to Detroit, Michigan, Willie began a 45 plus years tenure as a committed and dedicated employee with General Motors.

On February 5, 1977, he married his love, Jean Earl Sunday. To this union, two children, Brian Lamar and Kevin Dion were born.

Willie was a talented mathematician. He did not need paper, pencils, or electronic devices in order to calculate numbers. Additionally, he was particularly fond of playing cards. Willie also loved sports especially basketball, football, baseball and golf. Tiger Woods was his favorite golfer. Willie was such an avid sports enthusiast that he subscribed to the full sporting packages of two competing cable television services.

Willie also loved music. He especially enjoyed Rhythm and Blues especially artists, Peabo Bryson, Jeffery Osborne, and Johnny Mathis. However, his favorite was Arthur Prysock, Jr. Every time his son, Brian, and his family came to the house, he would ask to have Arthur's music to be accessed on YouTube.

One of Willie's favorite pastimes was washing and ironing clothes. He was a stickler on having sharp creases in not only his pants, but also in his wife, Jean's, pants as well. He wore the finest clothes and shoes. Willie was also very serious about having a nice lawn. Neighbors would often see him outside mowing and edging his lawn.

Willie's favorite time of year was Christmas. He loved the lights of the season. The lawn of he and Jean's home was often bedecked with reindeer, a sled, and lights from the top of the house to the bottom, electric candles in the window, stars, and a big white Christmas tree in the middle of the living room complete with a working electric train circling it.

Most of all, Willie loved his family. He relished in traveling to family reunions and his high school class reunions. Some of the places that he visited were Youngstown, OH, and Birmingham, AL. He loved his family so much that during a family reunion trip to New York City, he and Jean put up with watching the movie Frozen for 16 hours, non-stop, with his grandchildren Brianna and Ethan during the adventurous road trip.

Charitable giving was a hallmark of Willie. He was an active member and supporter of the following: National Disabled Veterans Foundation, the United States Navy Memorial Organization, the United Services Organizations (USO), United Negro College Fund (UNCF), Special Olympics, Easter Seals, National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP), Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Law Enforcement Officers, United States

Deputy Sheriffs Organization, National Veteran's Founder's Leadership Council, Kid's Wish List, National Smithsonian Museum and countless others. It is safe to say that Willie wished to better the world.

Sadly, Willie developed an illness from which he was unable to recover and left this mortal life at the age of 81 at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, MI on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

Cemetery Details

Grand Lawn Cemetery

23501 Grand River
Detroit, MI 48219

Previous Events

Visitation

Friday, Nov. **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Family Hour

Saturday, Nov. **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

Saturday, Nov. **25**. 10:00 AM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Willie James Johnson, Sr.*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



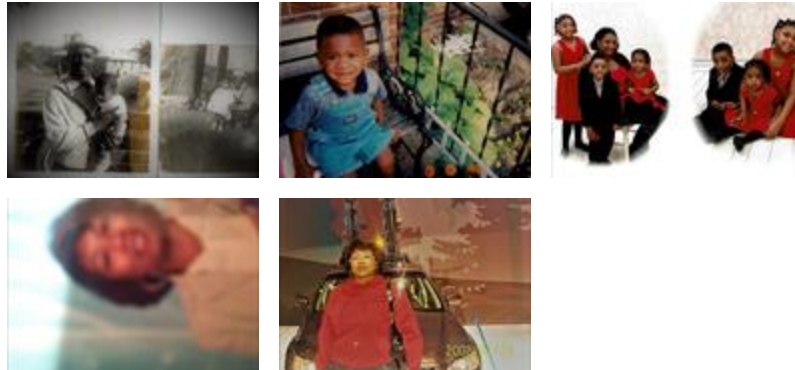
“ *Brianna and Ethan miss their Papa, so much as do the two of us.
Thanks for the memories Dad.*

Brian and Jennifer

JenniandBrian Johnson - November 26, 2017 at 02:15 PM



“ *5 files added to the tribute wall*



Sharon Iats - November 25, 2017 at 04:58 AM

CS

“ To: Mrs. Johnson and son

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We shall surely miss the presence of Mr. Johnson on our block. May God bless you and your family and bring you comfort in the days ahead.

Please do not call upon us if there is anything we can do for you.

Cleovis and Earnestine Scott

neighbors (18101)

Cleovis Scott - November 25, 2017 at 12:02 AM

W.

“ Dad, you will be missed.



W.Johnson - November 21, 2017 at 04:24 PM

TL

Beautiful picture of Willie's three children; Sharon, Willie, Jr., and Brian.

T. Love - November 24, 2017 at 11:27 PM