



Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson

June 10, 1933 - September 5, 2018

Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson – "A Life Well Lived"

On the morning of September 5, 2018, Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson, age 85, died the way she lived life--quiet, peaceful and on her own terms.

Bonnie, the eldest of 9 children, was born on June 10, 1933 to parents, Harold Glen and Bernice Bonzetta (Russell) Gamble. She was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan and remained a long-time native.

Bonnie married Lloyd Joseph Johnson and together they had two children, Anthony and Wendy. Bonnie graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1948. Then doing something uncommon for the times, continued her education in the secretarial field. This was certainly key in securing her job as a legal secretary to the late Judge Charles Pratt for over 20 years. She also worked for Upjohn Company until she retired. Later, her sense of community and caring for others was apparent. It's during this time she volunteered (as much as one might work) at places like Kalamazoo Health Department, The Douglas Community Center, the Kalamazoo Drop-In Center, Planned Parenthood and the Kalamazoo Ecumenical Senior Center. Her passion to empower the less fortunate in the community, and help them lead a more self-sufficient and independent life was always her focus.

One meaning of Esther, Bonnie's middle name, is Star, and this was no coincidence. Bonnie was the North Star for the Gamble family. The Matriarch, a woman of few words, the Rock none the less. Loyal, devoted, steady, unflinching, trustworthy, the keeper of all secrets, just a few of the many words one might use to describe Bonnie. Others might see her as Old-fashioned, unassuming, reserved, quiet, maybe even square. In a group you might not know Bonnie was there, but as a member of this family, you would Always know she was! All this, rooted in her great love of Family: her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and many friends. Bonnie always smiled as she recalled the happenings after an Eagle Lake Ladies gathering. For over 50 years their annual weekend was one she looked forward to each year. On occasion Bonnie enjoyed watching Tiger Wood's fortitude and drive as he played a round of Golf. Later enjoying the lively conversations with siblings, Harold and Katie. They'd smile and would say you can never count Tiger out. Or enjoy the times sitting with son Tony to watch the Detroit Tigers rally in the ninth, or Not. But, truth be told, Bonnie's favorite match-up, was between her and the one-armed bandit, Mono-e Mono, Win or Lose. To know her, was to know the casino was her Happy place.

Bonnie is preceded in death by her daughter, Wendy Rebecca (Johnson) Johnston who died of complications from Scleroderma; her parents, Harold and Bernice; grandparents, Ellis and Esther Gamble; sister, Paula Marie Carter and several nieces and nephews.

Bonnie is survived by her son, Anthony Ellis Johnson (wife, Joanna); siblings: Donna Jean Pratt (Gamble); Rose Ann Prude (Gamble); Katherine Lois Hairston (Gamble); Harold Russell Gamble; Imogene Mopkins (Gamble); Sherrie Carita Gamble and Debra Elieene Kelly (Gamble); 4 grandchildren; Robin Antoinette McGhee, Aaron Joseph Johnson, Cassandra Hope Johnston, Jevestine Faith Johnston; 3 great-grandchildren: Raheem, Rasheed and Roxanne; aunt Henrietta (101 years of age); aunt Gwen (101 years of

age) and hundreds of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

1 Corinthians 13:7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

*****IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, DONATIONS may be made in Bonnie's name to the Scleroderma Foundation, 300 Rosewood Drive, Suite 105, Danvers, MA 09123. (<http://www.scleroderma.org>)

Previous Events

A Memorial Service In Loving Memory Of

SEP 11. 5:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson



Harper Funeral Home - September 09, 2018 at 09:10 PM



So Beautiful!

Kathryn Perdue - September 15, 2018 at 03:29 AM



“ Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ RIP Cousin Bonnie
Love your Family Moncriefs



Darla Lipsey - September 15, 2018 at 05:25 PM

RF

“ *Rancifer Family lit a candle in memory of
Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Rancifer Family - September 13, 2018 at 02:04 PM

YH

“ *Yvonne Heltzel lit a candle in memory of
Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Yvonne Heltzel - September 12, 2018 at 12:37 AM



“ *Karest Willis Brown lit a candle in memory of
Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Karest Willis Brown - September 11, 2018 at 07:08 PM

CF

“ *The Durr Family*



Cheryl Durr & Family - September 11, 2018 at 05:10 PM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson



Dallas Boards and family - September 11, 2018 at 11:08 AM

SG

“ stanley granger purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson.



stanley granger - September 11, 2018 at 01:08 AM

CF

“ The Durr Family



Cheryl Durr & Family - September 10, 2018 at 08:03 PM

CP

“ Chan M. Pratt lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson



Chan M. Pratt - September 10, 2018 at 06:49 PM

TC

“ *THOMAS CHARLESTON lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



THOMAS CHARLESTON - September 10, 2018 at 06:20 PM

BJ

“ *Bari Brown Jr lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Bari Brown Jr - September 10, 2018 at 05:51 PM



“ *Karest Brown lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Karest Brown - September 10, 2018 at 05:33 PM

DJ

“ *My deepest Sympathy to The Family*



Deborah McDaniel Jorgboyan - September 10, 2018 at 03:37 PM



“ *Mary Gamble-Codrington lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Mary Gamble-Codrington - September 10, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ *I lived across the hall from Bonnie (at Westland Meadows) for two years until 2016 and got to know her sweet gentle spirit. She was a true lady and very kind. I liked to bake so I would make sure she always got a serving or two!
She will be missed.
Deb Snyder*

Deb Butler Snyder - September 09, 2018 at 07:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson.*



September 09, 2018 at 10:04 AM



“ *Jacqueline Ezell lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Jacqueline Ezell - September 09, 2018 at 01:18 AM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Pauline Gardner - September 08, 2018 at 09:05 PM

DB

My thought of Bonnie was she was always First Class Lady and her intelligence was more then average.. Awsome woman of God.

Donna Marshall Brayboy - September 11, 2018 at 09:04 PM

DB

Rest in Peace BEAUTIFUL Sister.

Donna Marshall Brayboy - September 11, 2018 at 09:33 PM

MV

“ *Mignon Vincent lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Mignon Vincent - September 08, 2018 at 06:47 PM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Embrey lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Jo Ann Embrey - September 07, 2018 at 07:59 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson.*



September 07, 2018 at 07:31 PM



“ *Barbara Phillips lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Barbara Phillips - September 07, 2018 at 06:21 PM



“ *Helen (Mills) Brooks lit a candle in memory of Bonnie Esther (Gamble) Johnson*



Helen (Mills) Brooks - September 07, 2018 at 02:11 PM