



Mrs. Liza Johnson

August 20, 1921 - May 21, 2014

Liza Johnson, 92, died peacefully on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Liza was born August 20, 1921, in Isola, Mississippi to the late Joseph and Lizzie Ann (Lewis) LeFlore. The youngest of eight children being raised in the Deep South, Liza knew what hard work meant and assisted her family by learning to cook and sew. This would later come in handy after she met and married the late William Johnson and raised 15 children.

Liza was introduced to Christ at an early age and joined Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Isola, MS where her family worshipped. In 1967 the family officially relocated to Kalamazoo, Michigan and in 1968 after searching for a church home she joined Friendship Baptist Church under the direction of the Rev. Dr. PT Tinsley. Liza went on to join First United Baptist Missionary Church in 1978 where she was a member for 35 years until rejoining Friendship.

In 1973 Liza began her career working at the Kalamazoo State Hospital where she continued until her retirement in 1987. She loved her job and made lots of lifelong friends there.

Affectionately known by everyone as “Madear” family and friends were Liza’s passion and delight. She enjoyed knitting, sewing, quilting, gardening, fishing and crocheting. She was known for making an outfit or a blanket for any new additions. She loved to play games with her children and grandchildren such as checkers, pop the whip and Sally go-round the sunshine just to name a few. Her signature gift of joy, shown through her constant smiling, laughter, and joking around, will never be forgotten.

Liza is preceded in death by her parents Joseph & Lizzie LeFlore, her husband William Johnson, four brothers James & Eugene Love, Homer & Chester LeFlore; three sisters Mary Carter, Minerva Thomas and Flora LeFlore; her eldest son Robert Johnson; granddaughters Yolanda Williams and Ruby “Missy” Johnson and great-grandsons Romney Hunter and Jheryl Wright.

She leaves behind to forever cherish her memory nine daughters Mae Mathews, Louise Williams, Dorothy (Jerry) Tubbs, Rose, Mary (Wesley) Williams, Ruby, Brenda, Janice all of Kalamazoo, MI and Ollie (Robert) Johnson of Chicago, IL; five sons Oscar, Rufus (Shirley), Joseph (Sharon), Warren (Carlene) Johnson all of Kalamazoo MI and Willie (Marie) Johnson of Battle Creek, MI. She was blessed with 53 grandchildren, 120 great-grandchildren and 65 great-great grandchildren one cousin Clara Lewis, special nieces Lucille Snell and Robin Love and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends that she held near and close to her heart.

Her strong will to live, unwavering faith in God, and the love and prayers of family, friends, and many supporters carried her through the past years. And though Liza has departed this life, her legacy will live on through all who knew and loved her.

Cemetery Details

Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park

4037 South Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Family Hour

MAY 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church
320 W Paterson
Kalamazoo, MI

A Celebration of Life

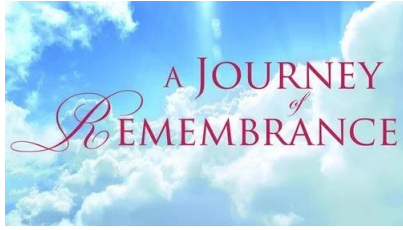
MAY 28. 12:00 PM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church
320 W Paterson
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Liza Johnson



Harper Funeral Home - May 26, 2014 at 05:02 PM



“ Mrs. Liza Johnson

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mrs. Liza Johnson

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ missing mom day by day love mom



janice - May 22, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ madear was a loving and caring person welcoming me in to there families and most all she was are grandmother she would help you in your good and bad time she was always willing to listen or leaned a helping hand I have never meet a more loving and caring person no matter who you were I love talking to her and were truly going to miss her everyday we think about are grandmother in are eyes you always been a angel in disguise love Arthur and Kimberly and family....



kimberly leighton - August 25, 2014 at 07:09 PM

KL

“ she was a loving and caring woman to anybody even if she didn't know you I enjoyed coming over and talking to her lightly with art welcomed me to there families I was very sad and heart broking to hear such bad news about such a wonderful woman I had just meet and was getting to know she will always be missed in are hearts Arthur and Kimberly and family there not a day goes by that we don't think about her she always been a angel in disguise in are eyes... we love you always grandma...



kimberly leighton - August 25, 2014 at 04:28 PM

AJ

“ May God Bless the family I took care of Liza at borgess on 3North...I was her care giver Anthony...

Anthony Jackson - June 20, 2014 at 03:43 PM

R"

“ Love You So Much Granny & Im Truly Missing You!



Roe "Toot" - June 12, 2014 at 04:19 PM

TF

“ The Fields Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Liza Johnson



The Fields Family - June 03, 2014 at 04:43 PM

Ren'a Johnson

“ I love you grandmother RIH love always Ren'a

Ren'a Johnson - June 01, 2014 at 02:11 AM

NE

“ Dear Family, I am sorry for your loss and wanted to express my sincere condolences. May you find comfort and strength in Almighty God's word the Bible. James 4:8 encourages, "Draw close to God and he will draw close to you."



Neighbor - May 31, 2014 at 11:31 AM

PG

“ Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Liza Johnson



Pauline Gardner - May 30, 2014 at 09:42 PM

LJ

“ Laverne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Liza Johnson



Laverne Jones - May 28, 2014 at 02:03 PM

LJ

So sorry to hear of the passing of your mother, grandmother. May God give you strength in this difficult time. Praying for the family.

Laverne Jones - May 28, 2014 at 02:06 PM

JC

“ Jonni Cummins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Liza Johnson



jonni cummins - May 27, 2014 at 06:49 PM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Mrs. Liza Johnson.



May 27, 2014 at 04:40 PM

RJ

“ Rosie Lee And Christine Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Liza Johnson



Rosie Lee and Christine Jackson - May 27, 2014 at 10:02 AM

RJ

“ Mae, Shell from your loving Sister-in-law and Aunt Rosie Lee and familey we send you greeting and much love from Montgomery,AL. May Almighty God throw his loving arms of protection around you all durning this trying time of your life.love One and All

Rosie Lee and Christine Jackson - May 27, 2014 at 09:55 AM

BH

“ to the Johnson Family Look to the Lord where you can draw strength from the Lord. Mrs Liza Johnson is with the Lord. stay together and stay strong as a family. brenda hill



belinda hill - May 27, 2014 at 05:24 AM



“ Angela Stacy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Liza Johnson



Angela Stacy - May 26, 2014 at 11:05 PM