



## Mr. Willie W. Johnson

October 29, 1924 - October 9, 2008

Mr. Willie W. Johnson was born On October 29, 1924, in Okolona, MS, the son of the late Lee Edgar and Lucile Gates Johnson. He graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School, where he excelled in baseball. He retired from Eaton Manufacturing, where he worked as a machinist. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, bowling and watching all sports. Although his lifetime dream of playing professional baseball was never fulfilled, he moved to Colorado (after retirement), and lived his dream of getting a job with the "Colorado Rockies Baseball Team", as a seasonal employee in the "Restricted Visiting Players Clubhouse" for 13 years--until his health no longer allowed him to work. Willie served his country during WWII in the U.S. Army. Willie was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, under Dr. Otha Gilyard, in Kalamazoo, MI, where he served as a Trustee. After his move to Colorado, he joined Macedonia Baptist Church in Denver, CO, under Dr. Paul M. Martin, where he also served on the Trustee Board. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Belita Joye Harpool; a brother, Nolan Johnson; a sister, Mamie T. Johnson, and his parents. He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife Eula V.; daughters, Francine A. Johnson-Cody, of Denver CO; Ann (Charles) Dunigan, of Kalamazoo, MI; and son, Ernie Johnson, of Denver, CO; brother, Lee Ambrosia Johnson, of Kalamazoo, MI; sister, Brenda Hill, of Kalamazoo, MI; grandsons, Terrance "Tee" Johnson, of Denver, CO; and Chris (Nakesha) Dunigan, of Kalamazoo, MI; granddaughters, Regina Y. McGee, and Shanika D. Harpool, of Denver, CO; and Bridget C. Dunigan, of

Mt. Pleasant, MI; brother-in-law, John F. Lee, of Kalamazoo, MI; 23 great-grandchildren; special nieces, Esther Buchanan, Thelma (Reuben) Moss, Paulette Johnson, and Lucile Johnson, all of Kalamazoo, MI; and Pamela Hudson, of Detroit, MI; special friends, Evelyn Cody, mother of daughters, Francine, Belita and son, Ernie; Walt (Catherine) Summers, of Kalamazoo, MI; also a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family at Macedonia Baptist Church, and his Colorado Rockies associates in Denver, CO.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 16. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home Inc.  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Service

OCT 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

Mt Zion Baptist Church  
120 Roberson Street  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Willie W. Johnson*

---

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. Willie W. Johnson*

---

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Ann and family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your father. It  
must have been wonderful to have him in you life.  
Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us everyday.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and very  
dear.*

*God Bless and Keep You,  
Tina Echols##imported-begin##Tina Echols##imported-end##*

---

October 16, 2008 at 08:11 PM



“ I remember Willie from my days playing in Kalamazoo City league SoftBall, first with Louie's, then with the old Bowl 'O Drome team then with the well known, Flynn's Team.

Willie and I were kindred souls in sports, respected and admired one another's athletic skills in Genuine Friendship each and everytime we would meet; either on a local ball field, in a bowling alley or, at my old automobile lot on West Main in Kalamazoo. He was a real fine man, a good man who will surely be missed by all of us who knew and cared for him.

God Love him.##imported-begin##Richard ( Dick )  
Lindstrom##imported-end##

---

October 16, 2008 at 04:10 PM



“ Worked several years with Willie at Fullers. Nice fellow and I always considered him as a friend.##imported-begin##Clarence D.  
Scott##imported-end##

---

October 15, 2008 at 09:45 PM



“ Worked with Willie at Eaton's, a nice fellow, always friendly...##imported-begin##Roger Norman##imported-end##

---

October 15, 2008 at 03:38 PM