

Memories



Lower Row: E. Johnson, B. Cerrone, A. Janov, J. Roman, J. Bondik. Upper Row: Capt. E. Balenti, V. Augustynowicz, Chief J. Morenzi, S. Sergy, G. Gura, J. Angelo, Capt. J. Cunningham, Capt. N. Napolitano, Missing from the photo is R. Strednak.

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

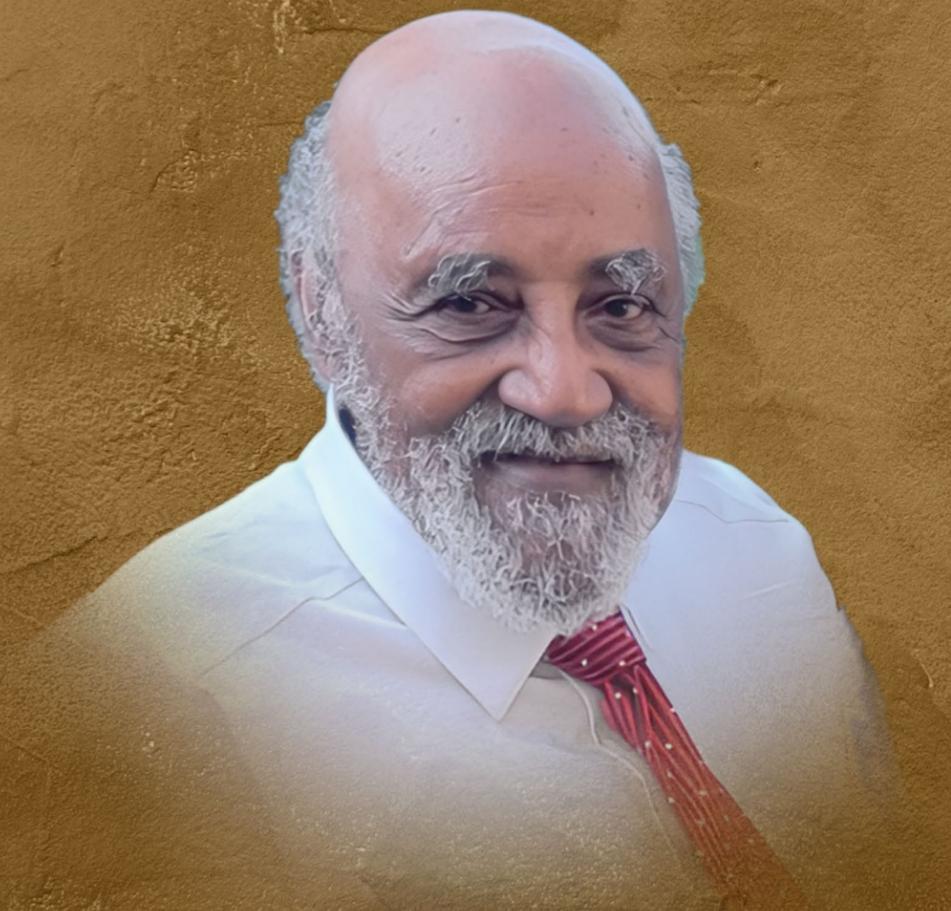
Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. Joseph Edward Johnson, would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.

*A Celebration of Life
In Loving Memory
of*

MR. JOSEPH EDWARD JOHNSON



FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025
11:00 A.M.

BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
819 WOODROW STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND BOBBY COX
-PASTOR-

CONTACT US:
Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799

Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922

WWW.LEEVY.COM

I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner-

Services Entrusted To:

Leevy's
Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

Obituary of Mr. Joseph Edward Johnson

Mr. Joseph Edward Johnson was born on December 7, 1935, to the late Joseph and Catherine Johnson in Blackstone, Virginia, a town in Nottoway County. As an 18-year-old, in 1953 he traveled with his grandmother to Braddock, Pennsylvania, a borough of Pittsburgh and a thriving steel mill town. While his grandmother returned to Blackstone, Joseph decided he would stay behind with his aunt Willie Mae, and took advantage of the employment opportunities the Pittsburgh area had to offer.

Joseph worked odd jobs to establish himself and ease his relocation, to include taking a position as a cook at Lumberger, a local blackowned restaurant. It was during this time that he met the love of his life, Marjorie Lorraine Williams. They were married on January 3, 1964.

After marriage, Joseph worked at Watson Paint and Glass Company. One day while heading home from work, a person familiar with Joseph approached him and asked if he was interested in becoming a fireman. Seizing the career opportunity, he became the first black fireman for the borough of Braddock. Joseph held the distinction of being the only black fireman until the borough disbanded the paid fire services and converted to volunteer. During his tenure as a fireman, he encountered overt racism and discrimination. To many in the community, he was affectionately known as “Fireman Eddie.”

Over fifty years later during the borough’s black history month celebration, Braddock’s mayor proposed, and the Council approved a resolution declaring February 28th Joseph Edward Johnson Day, recognizing him as the borough’s first Black fireman.

Holding a position of prominence in the community, Joseph became an influential citizen. He purchased and owned several properties in the neighborhood. At one time, he threw his hat in the ring for election as mayor of Braddock. At the church his family attended (Calvary A.M.E.), he would often prepare meals for church auxiliaries and organizations. During Christmas, he played Santa Clause for the neighborhood kids. Many youth in the community looked up to him as a father figure and one to emulate.

After his career as a fireman ended, Joseph worked alongside his wife Marjorie, who managed a local convenience store. He then took a job at the Temple Sinai Synagogue, in Squirrel Hill, Pa. Marjorie later joined him there as an event manager at the Temple. They were employed there for 20 years and retired together.

In July of 2022, Joseph and Marjorie pulled up their Pennsylvania roots and relocated to Columbia, South Carolina to be near their daughters. They began to enjoy the southern hospitality of friends and family, and the



warmer climate. They looked forward to going to Hopkins Park Adult Activity Center for daily activities each weekday morning.

In May of 2023, Joseph lost his wife of 59 years. Marjorie having been ever the chider, family members joked upon Joseph’s transition that she said to him “What took you so long?” Now, they are together forever.

Joseph leaves behind to continue his legacy two loving and attentive daughters (and their spouses), who provided personal and loving care for their dad: Oriol LaRae (Eric) Flores and Marilyn LaFonda Johnson-Thompson (Ronald) both of Columbia, SC; four grandchildren, Yolanda (LaTausha) Johnson of North Versailles, PA, Terry Johnson of Braddock, PA, Candice Johnson-Evans (Devin) and Joseph Edward Johnson II (Emily) of Columbia, SC., four great-grandchildren, Justine McWright Johnson, Dominique and Drew Evans, Dallas Thomas Johnson; and one great- great-grandchild, KayJa

Joseph also leaves behind one uncle, William Bennie Wynn; three siblings, Brenda Daily of Upper Marlboro, MD, Samuel Lee Johnson (Patricia) of Washington, DC, and Sandra Simmons (Heyward) of Temple, MD; two sisters-in-law, Marlene Williams of Columbia, SC, and Twana Patton of Swissvale, Pa.; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and two fur-baby dogs, Butters and Laci.

Order of Service

Presiding Elder Reverend Rosalyn Coleman, Presiding

- The Gathering
- The Prelude.....Brother Curtis Cole, Minister of Music
- The Processional.....Clergy and Family
- The Parting View.....Funeral Directors
- The Hymn of Praise.....Bethel A.M.E. Church Choir
“How Great Thou Art”
- The Invocatoin.....Reverend Marick Walters, Daybreak Church
- The Litugry of the Word:
 - The Old Testament... Reverend Cole Weatther, Bethel A.M.E. Church
Lamentations 3:22-26
 - The Epistle.....Reverend Betty Wannamaker, Bethel A.M.E. Church
Romans 8:31-38
 - The Gospel.....Reverend Eric Brown, Mount Moriah A.ME. Church
Matthew 5:15
- The Ministry of Music.....Bethel A.M.E Church Choir
“Order my Steps”
- Reflections.....Grandchildren
- Words of Comfort.....Presiding Elder Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg
- Solo.....Brother Curtis Cole, Minister of Music
- Eulogy.....Reverend Bobby Cox, Pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Church
- The Recessional.....“Going Up Yonder”
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

Greenlawn Serenity Gardens
6601 Windwan Drive
Columbia, South Carolina