

Pallbearers

Deacons and Friends

Floral Bearers

Greenview First Baptist Church Missionaries

Acknowledgement

We, the family of 1SG (Ret) Donald Lee Johnson, Sr., would like to thank each of you for your prayers, love, and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. To Dr. Kimberly Williams and HaDora Hospice, we are forever grateful for all that you have done. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.

*A Celebration of Life
In Loving Memory
of*

1SG (RET) DONALD LEE JOHNSON, SR.



MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026
10:00 A.M.

GREENVIEW FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
101 ISAAC STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND JOHNNY C. OWENS, JR.
-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-

Order of Service

Reverend Michael Addison, Presiding

Prelude.....“It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye”
Recording by: Boyz II Men

Processional

Viewing.....Funeral Directors

Opening Hymn.....Greenview First Baptist Church Choir

Old Testament.....Isaiah 40:31.....Rev. Rodney Lindsey

New Testament.....Romans 8:28 & Matthew 6:33.....Deacon Allen Suber

Prayer of Comfort.....Deacon Archie Suber

Musical Selection.....Greenview First Baptist Church Men’s Ensemble

Remarks.....Deacon Ellis Hawkins, Greenview First Baptist Church
Ms. Mae Hazel, Longtime Friend

Musical Selection.....Ms. DeChandra Golden

Remarks.....Mr. Anthony Kenney, Brother
Mr. Donald “Tiger” Johnson, Jr., Son

Acknowledgements and Proclamation.....Sister Eddie R. Adams

Song of Dedication.....Mr. Grady Jarrett

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Johnny C. Owens, Jr.

Recessional

Postlude



Committal, Benediction, and Interment

12:00 Noon

Fort Jackson National Cemetery

4170 Percival Road

Columbia, South Carolina

To the Love of My Life

It is so hard to say goodbye.

You are, were, my everything as I know I was yours.

Our journey together was full of love and laughter.

*You were a blind date, that I wasn't to sure about,
but the family all seemed to like you even my Daddy,
so, I said why not give him a chance and a chance it was.*

You always showered me with so much love.

*Everywhere we went people would ask,
how long we had been married and, when we told them,
they would say it seems as though
we had been together much longer than that.*

*You know what, that's how the love radiated off of us.
You have shown me so much love that it will last me a lifetime.*

*Our journey was great! You were my provider and protector,
and in the end, I became yours,
and I would do it all over if given the chance.*

*Donald the day that you left me, my heart split in two.
One side filled with memories. The other died with you.*

*Remembering you will be easy,
but missing you is the heartache that will never go away.*

Life will go on without you. Our journey has ended.

*It was my pleasure to be your wife
and walk beside you for the 23 years that we had.*

Thanks for the memories.

*You will forever be in My Heart.
I'm Really Gonna Miss You My Buddy.*

Loving You Always,

Your Forever Wife

Memories



Obituary

1SG (Retired) Donald Lee Johnson, Sr. A Man of Honor, Service, and Love

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33 KJV

First Sergeant (Retired) Donald Lee Johnson, Sr. was known by many names: "Poochie", "Tank Head", "Duck", husband, daddy, G-paw, Paw-Paw, brother, brother-in-love, uncle, cousin, friend, Mr. Donald and Johnson, and the name he loved most of all, "Hubby". Donald didn't just have many names, he delighted in giving them too. Anyone who knew him could expect a fresh nickname, a playful twist, or a term of endearment, because he believed everyone deserved to feel special. No matter what name he was called, or what he called you, everyone who knew him experienced the same thing: a radiant light full of love, laughter, and genuine care for others.

Donald knew how to impact lives, and impact lives he did. Born on February 11, 1952, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to the late Norman Reese and Bernice Johnson Kenney, he spent his life lighting up every room he entered. He never met a stranger, and whenever you were with him, you could be sure he would strike up a conversation with someone new. Every encounter left an impression, whether through a laugh, a word of encouragement, or simply being near him, he had a way of making people feel seen, valued, and loved. His warm, infectious personality left you laughing at something he said or inspired by his words, and his kindness and sense of humor left a lasting mark on every life he touched. On Good Friday, April 3, 2026, after cheering on his mighty Lady Gamecocks as they clinched the win to advance to the National Championship game, he peacefully departed this life to be with his Heavenly Father, truly embodying the phrase, "Let the life I live speak for me."

Donald graduated from Scotlandville High School, Class of 1970, where he played baseball and was a member of the Hornets State Championship football team. He continued his education at Southern University A&M College, where he was also a member of the football team. These early experiences shaped the discipline, teamwork, and joy that would follow him throughout life.

With a heart for service, Donald enlisted in the United States Army in 1973. He honorably and selflessly served his country for 35 years, attaining the rank of First Sergeant before retiring. He was a decorated soldier who received numerous commendations, medals, and awards. Among his highest honors was the prestigious Legion of Merit. He was a true civil servant, dedicated to ensuring the rights and well-being of others, and he carried that commitment into every aspect of his life.

Donald accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. He was baptized and was a faithful servant of God. A devoted member of Greenview First Baptist Church, he faithfully served in the Voices of Praise, holding down the baritone section with strength and pride. Donald loved singing so much that he often broke into song spontaneously, filling any room, church, home, or gathering, with music, joy, and his infectious energy, lifting the spirits of everyone around him.

In November 2003, Donald met Carrie on a blind date that blossomed into late-night conversations, deep friendship, and a lifelong love. On July 24, 2005, Donald married Carrie, his best friend and the love of his life. Together, they built a life centered on Jesus, love, joy, and family.

Their union blended together a family of eleven children: Donald, Jr. "Tiger," D'Arryl, Darond, Dwayne, Donna, D'Netra, Donovan, Misti, Dontae, Michael and Matthew; twenty-four grandchildren: Trey, Sierra, Brennen, Randy, Christian, Ivan, London, Ceria, Ciani, Caleb, Ca'Neea, Da'Vion, Dwayne Jr., Teegan, Kianna, Courtney, Da'Keiera, Eric, Zion, A'Naiyah, Tyrone Jr. Tyquan, Mia, and Dontae Jr. "Lenny"; and five great-grandchildren: Rylee, Tristan, Treasure, Casch, and Ciah.

Donald was a proud and devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who lit up every opportunity he had to spend with his family. He enjoyed every moment spent with his loved ones, sharing good food, creating lasting memories, and filling every room with laughter. Whether visiting family in South

Carolina, Florida, or Baton Rouge, he cherished every moment and made sure every person in his family felt loved, valued, and appreciated. As a family man, he led with love, wisdom, and strength, leaving a lasting legacy that will live on for generations.

In addition to his deep love for family, Donald shared a special bond with his neighbor and dear friend, Wayne Glass, who helped care for him. Together, they shared a love for sports, family and service to their country, swapping stories, laughter, and countless joyful moments. Their friendship created a connection of love, respect, and lasting impact, one that will continue to inspire all who witnessed it.

Above all, His greatest joy was found in loving and spoiling his wife of 21 years, Carrie Johnson. Together for 23 years, she was not only his partner, but his best friend, his peace, his confidant, his joy, and his greatest blessing. He treasured every moment with her and never missed an opportunity to show her how deeply she was loved. Whether through quiet moments, shared laughter, or their magical trips to Disney World, he made sure she always felt cherished and adored. In his final days, Carrie became not only his beloved partner, but also his devoted caregiver, remaining steadfast by his side with unwavering love and grace until the very end.

Donald was also an avid sports fan. He enjoyed sports, and anytime you would be around him you heard about two teams, his New Orleans Saints and his beloved Lady Gamecocks, led by Dawn Staley. As a dedicated season ticket holder, he rarely missed an opportunity to cheer them on. Even in his final moments, on that Good Friday, he was doing what he loved, watching his Lady Gamecocks, cheering them on, and coaching them to victory with all the strength he had. It was only fitting that he departed this life doing something that brought him so much joy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Norman Reese and Bernice Johnson Kenney; his parents-in-law, Deacon Edward and Deaconess Dianna Rivers; his sister-in-law, Mary Fields; and his nephew, Stephen Anthony Kenney.

Donald leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife and best friend, Carrie Rivers Sumter-Johnson; his children: Donald "Tiger" (Navonne) Johnson, Jr. of Baton Rouge, LA; D'Arryl (Wendy) Sumter; Darond (Tyreea) Sumter of Columbia, SC; Dwayne (Tnelda) Sumter of Harker Heights, TX; Donna (Desarae) Henderson of Orlando, FL; D'Netra Sumter of Columbia, SC; Donovan (Megan) Johnson of Orlando, FL; Misti Champion of Charlotte, NC; Dontae Johnson of Lakeland, FL; Michael Johnson; and Matthew Johnson of Columbia, SC, and a bonus son, Wayne (Lisa) Glass of Columbia, SC.

He is also survived by twenty-four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; two brothers, Roderick (DeLisa) Kenney and Anthony (Joyce) Kenney; one sister, Angella (Shedrick) Wynn, all of Baton Rouge, LA; two sisters-in-law, Eddie M. Adams and Debra (Nathaniel "Nate") Tucker of Columbia, SC; two aunts, Armedia Reese-White and Gloria Hayes of Baton Rouge, LA; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and caring friends.

As we remember and celebrate the life of First Sergeant (Retired) Donald Lee Johnson, Sr., we are reminded that his legacy lives on in each of us. Let us honor him not only in words, but in action. Carry his light by showing kindness to others. Share his love by embracing family and lifting up those around you. Continue his impact by treating every person you meet with the same warmth and compassion that he so freely gave. Choose to laugh, finding joy in the sadness and the missing, and then spread that joy to everyone around you, just as he did.

As he lived by his favorite scripture, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"* (Matthew 6:33), let us seek God in our own lives, trusting that in doing so, we honor his example, continue his legacy, and look forward to seeing him again. In doing so, his light will never dim, his love will never fade, his impact will never end, and his spirit will live on and shine brightly through all who were blessed to know and love him.

Memories

