

His STORY

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7

Deacon Clarence Johnson, one of eight children, was born on March 24, 1926, to the late Sylvester and Fannie Mae Johnson. He was affectionately called "Coot" by his loving parents, siblings, and close acquaintances.

Clarence was educated in the Escambia County School District in Atmore, Alabama. In 1945, he migrated from his birthplace to the Steel City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This is where he met the young woman who would become his wife. After a long courtship, Clarence and Effie Lee Monroe united in holy matrimony on January 27, 1949. This union lasted for seventy years until she closed her eyes in 2019 and fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. To this union were born six beautiful children, four boys and two girls.

Clarence Johnson will be remembered as a loving husband and a devoted family man who was an excellent provider, always making sure that their needs were met.

For over 41 years, he worked in the construction industry at the J.E. Brenneman Company from which he retired in 1990. After his official retirement, Clarence continued to remain active. He loved working with his hands, building things, and putting things back together that were broken.

Clarence, who was known as the "Mayor," was the longest-living resident on the 3600 block of Sydenham Street. In November 1958, he and his family settled into their home, and he has been there ever since. Most of the neighbors knew who he was. His pleasant smile, friendly personality, and concern for others caused him to never meet a stranger. Everyone was important, and he would spend hours sharing wisdom, advice, and stories of things that had taken place in the community and his life experiences. Even children knew who Mr. Johnson was. The daycare center around the corner adopted him as "Grandpop Johnson," a title that he cherished.

Clarence Johnson accepted the Lord as his personal savior at an early age and later rededicated himself to God and became a member of the United Evangelistic Church. He was also an ordained deacon under the leadership of the late Bishop Charles E. Williams. He remained a member of the ministry until his transition on Christmas morning. Due to failing health, he could no longer attend the services in the sanctuary, but the people of God would come to him. He would pray, sing songs, and give God praise.

Clarence is preceded in death by his wife, Effie, his sons, Richard, Marvin, Kenneth, Michael, and John Clarence, and his seven siblings Robert, Manuel, Alfred, Paul, Annie Mae, Arthur Mae, and Inez.

He leaves to cherish his loving memories to his two daughters, Carolyn Bruner (Tuskegee, AL) and Yvonne Burks (Philadelphia, PA), his son/nephew Gregory (Yolanda) Marshall (Philadelphia, PA), his eight grandchildren, Christel Hagins (Tuskegee, AL), Marvin (Mioko) Johnson (Coatesville, PA), Tony (Tania) Johnson (Killeen, TX), Markhan Hagins (Montgomery, AL), Andre Johnson (San Jose, CA), Shawn Burks (Philadelphia, PA), Tamyra Burks (Auburn, AL), Sheronn Burks (Philadelphia, PA), and Joan (Lee) Kelly (Killeen, TX), a host of great-grandchildren, seven great, great-grandchildren, a loving sister-in-law, Margaret Marshall (Philadelphia, PA), a host of nieces and nephews, and dear friends. He will be greatly missed by his long-time friends and neighbors, Mr. Richard Easley and Mr. Carlton Corprew.

Lovingly submitted,

The Family

