2-2-2013

2013-02-02; Pamphlets; In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Mamie Beale Johnson

Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

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Acknowledgment

On behalf of the entire Johnson family, we sincerely thank all of those who enriched the life of our mother and grandmother. We extend our deepest gratitude for your acts of thoughtfulness, words of kindness and prayers of love during this time of bereavement.

The family has established a scholarship fund in our mother's memory. Contributions may be made to The Mamie Beale Johnson Fund at Virginia Union University, 1500 North Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA 23220.

A special thank you to those who supported us and lovingly assisted in the care of our mother. We love you all: Enji, Mary Ann, Willie, Earl, Stanley, Jackie, Cathy, Lois, Carol, Ami, Kevin, Helene, Terri, Everett, Nadine, Eric, Jeff, Marla, Adam, Dr. Leroy Wilson, Calvin, Mary Alice and the wonderful staff at Hospice.

Repass

You are invited to join the family upstairs in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the service to share food and fellowship.
Obituary

Mamie Beale Johnson, a native of Buffalo, NY, peacefully left this world for eternal rest on January 26, 2013. As a devoted mother it is only fitting that her daughters, June, Patricia and Holly, and granddaughter Emily were at her side.

Mamie was born to the late Joseph L. and Emily Butler Beale and was the loving sister of the late Joseph J. Beale. She attended Buffalo Public School #52 and Hutchinson-Central High School. In 1947, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA. It was a rare, yet major accomplishment for an African American woman at that time. She was also a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Scientific Honor Society. Upon her return to Buffalo, Mamie was hired in 1948 by Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, where she served with distinction for 22 years as a mathematician. During her employ she was on the team that was instrumental in developing the seat belt for automobiles. She also won national recognition as an African American "Pioneer in Science" from Ebony magazine in 1950.

In 1970, Mamie embarked on a new and equally stellar career with the State University of New York at Buffalo's Educational Opportunity Center (EOC). During her tenure at EOC she held numerous positions including registrar, research assistant, and community relations and recruitment coordinator. For her excellent work, Mamie received the Certificate of Appreciation for Service and the Oxner/Lytle Award for Outstanding Service. She retired in 1990.

As extraordinary and distinguished as her professional career, it was her volunteer service that truly set Mamie apart from the crowd. Committed to African American rights, women's rights, health, music, and her community, Mamie served on numerous boards including The United Negro College Fund, The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Women's Committee, The Ujima Theater Company, The Everywoman Opportunity Center, The Niagara Frontier Vocational Rehabilitation Center, The High Blood Pressure Risk Reduction Program, The Parent Aide Community Effort, The WGRZ-TV 2 Minority Advisory Council, Project SAFE (Salvation Army Family Education), The Millard Center for Migrant Workers, The Citizens Community Development Corporation, and The Victoria School of Court Reporting. Supremeely civic-minded, Mamie was also a dedicated and active member of The Buffalo Chapter of The Links, Inc., as well as a charter member of The Buffalo Chapter of Jack and Jill Clubs of America and The Harriet Tubman 300s. She was also a member of Xi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

In addition, Mamie was a major supporter and active member of The Buffalo Black Media Coalition, The United Negro College Fund Leadership Committee, The Miss Black USA Advisory Council, Women for Downtown and The Community Action Organization's Education Task Force. In earlier years, Mamie was involved with The Camp Fire Girls of Buffalo & Erie County Committee, The Tri-Town Business and Professional Women's Club, The Niagara Frontier Association for Sickle Cell Disease Fundraising Committee and The United Way Allocations Panel. Mamie also volunteered her time raising money to help fund organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Buffalo Philharmonic, Women for Human Rights and Dignity, and Women in Community Service.

Mamie's charity work and fundraising efforts garnered her numerous honors including Recognition of Volunteerism (CAO Education Task Force, 1984-1994), the Frederick D. Patterson Distinguished Leadership Award (UNCF, 1988), the Meritorious Service Award (UNCF, 1995) and the Recognition for Volunteerism (UNCF, 1995-1996) to name a few. In 2002, she was named an Uncrowned Queen by the African American Women Community Builders of Western New York.

Mamie was an avid bridge player as well as a gifted musician. She was a member of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church where she served as pianist and participated in the Senior Choir and Emma J. Horner Chorale. She also served as the editor of the church newsletter. In addition, Mamie served 20 years as organist at Lloyds Memorial United Church of Christ. In her youth she sang with the musical group Three Notes and a Melody. For 59 years Mamie was the beloved wife and devoted partner to the late Buffalo Council member Horace "Billy" Johnson. She is survived by three loving daughters, June Johnson Stanford and Patricia Johnson Isaac of Buffalo, and Holly Johnson Fisher of Atlanta, GA; six cherished granddaughters, Jessica Stanford Henderson (Joshua), Emily Stanford, Paulina Isaac, Erin Fisher, Jamie Fisher and Sydney Fisher. She also leaves to cherish her memory countless family and friends, including many "adopted" family members whom she loved dearly and helped to raise as her own.

Mamie also enjoyed the company of her neighborhood family, affectionately known as the "Yard People" with whom she played cards and celebrated the good life on Hamlin Road. She will always be remembered for her amazing vitality, her joyful spirit, her undeniable wit and her everlasting commitment to service. If you met her you had to love her, as she was, in every essence, a real lady.

Mamie recited this scripture as a child each night at bedtime: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1
My Angel
Where are you, my angel? You're missing from your place. Where did you go? My angel. We miss you and your grace. The Lord had taken my angel. He wanted her with Him. But now we're without our angel. And this has left us again. But I know my beautiful angel. Smiles on me today. My angel wouldn't want me sad. That is not the way. My angel is in Heaven. A place she always belonged. I still miss my angel. But she has not been wronged. My angel deserved the best. And now she has that too. My angel guards me now. She also guards you. When you think of my angel, you'll think of class and grace. Who could forget my angel? And her smiling face. I truly love my angel. But now that she is gone. I will sing for my angel. Sing a gracious song. My angel taught me a lot. I owe her for my smarts. My angel was so sweet. She will forever be in our hearts. My angel is with God. And that's where she'll stay. My angel is where she needs to be. This is the best way. Although I miss my angel. And I never said goodbye. I know my angel's with me. And she'll stay by my side. Love, Jamie

Binky, I love you, Sydney

Grandma,
You were such a classy lady. You gave me an appreciation for the arts. You taught me etiquette and how to entertain. I am grateful for the blessing of knowing you and that you were there as I was growing up.

Love, Jessica

My Dearest Grandmother,
I've learned so much from the time we spent together and watching you in action. You were the epitome of sophistication. You perfectly executed the balance of being a strong-minded, successful, intelligent woman with kindness, generosity, graciousness, and of course style. You had a zest for life, wit, and humor that made others love your company. I feel blessed to have had you as a grandmother and strive to be like you in many ways. I love you and I can't wait to see you again.

Love, Emily

Grammy,
You were always fun to be around and you made me laugh even when you didn't mean to. I will miss you, but I will always remember you as a representation of a strong, caring and loyal woman who I could only strive to be like one day.

I love you, Paulina

FLOWERS
Roses are red, ice cream is sweet,
The memory of you in my heart I will keep.
Violets are blue, ice cream of pecans
I am so sad that you are gone.
Dandelions are white, ice cream is unhealthy,
You always were and always will be independently wealthy.
Daisies are yellow, ice cream is white,
No matter how many times we told you, Jack
my dog does not bite.
All flowers die, all flowers grow
In the poem my love will show
Roses are red, Violets are blue
Binky, Oh Binky, how I miss you.

Love, Erin!

Dearest Mother,
So this is not goodbye, sweet Mother, but see you later. As we would affectionately depart from one another, you would say, “See you later alligator.” I would respond, “After while alligator.” You would say, “What you mean jelly bean?” And I would say, “Just what I said hammer head.”

Mommy, I will love you forever, Junie Prune

To My Loving Mother,
God blessed me by giving me the greatest mother I could possibly imagine. You taught me love, compassion, integrity, and my love of God and family. Thank you for sharing the last six months of your life with me and for allowing me the privilege of being with you as you took your final breath.

You'll always be in my heart, Patty.

Love, Jessica

Order of Service

Musical Prelude
Gathering
Opening Hymn ........................................... “For All the Saints”
Congregation
Ministry of Music ................................. “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Emma J. Horner Chorale
Opening Prayer
Hymn ....................................................... “Blessed Assurance”
Congregation
Scripture
Old Testament ...................................... Proverbs 31: 25 – 31
Miss Paulina J. Isaac
New Testament ...................................... John 14: 1- 4
Miss Erin J. Fisher
Ministry of Music ................................. “A Mighty Fortress”
Emma J. Horner Chorale
Acknowledgements ................................ Mrs. Mary Ann Gregory
Obituary .................................................. (read silently)
Reflections ............................................. The Honorable Mayor Byron Brown
Mrs. Constance Eve
Dr. Helene Gayle
Ms. Carol E. Holmes
Mr. Kevin Patterson
Ms. Holly Johnson Fisher
Ministry of Music ................................. “Hallelujah Chorus”
Handel
Mrs. Joyce Mathis
Solo ....................................................... Lord’s Prayer
Rita Wedderburn-Marshall
Homily ................................................... The Honorable Mayor Byron Brown
Pastor George F. Nicholas
Recessional ........................................... “Marching to Nicholas”
Congregation