Obituary; 1997-09-09; Johnson, Willa

Bethel A.M.E. Church

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A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

In Memory

of

WILLA JOHNSON

(JANUARY 14, 1905 - SEPTEMBER 9, 1997)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1997
11:00 A.M.
BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
1525 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York
OBITUARY

Willa Greene was born on January 14, 1905, in Calhoun Falls, South Carolina, to the union of the late Rev. John and Eliza Hill Greene. She was the ninth child of fourteen.

At an early age, she relocated to Asheville, South Carolina, from there to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, before moving to Buffalo, New York in 1926. While in Buffalo, she enrolled in Mrs. Pennington’s School of Beauty Culture and soon after graduation opened her own beauty shop and worked at her craft for over sixty years.

She met the late Randolph Johnson and married in 1932. From this union came Randolph Johnson, Jr.

She joined Bethel A.M.E. Church on Eagle Street and after the church moved to the present address at 1525 Michigan Avenue, she became an active Sunday School teacher for the next forty-five years.

Also a member of the Daughters of Allen and a long-time member of the Missionary Society.

Willa departed this life on Tuesday, September 9, 1997, after a brief illness and went to join her Savior in her sleep.

She leaves to cherish her love and memory: a son, Randolph Johnson, Jr.; her sister, Mattie Adams; Grandsons, Christopher Dell Johnson and Mark Blain Johnson; nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of devoted friends.

"YOU WONDER WHY"

I went away and didn’t say goodbye
I couldn’t begin to tell you for I hate to see you cry.
My ship came in at 9:15 p.m. and beautiful it was to see,
For my captain was King Jesus, and softly He said me.
I ran across the leeway and fell down at His feet,
He came gently in His arms;
My life is now complete.

***

"WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU"

When I must leave you for awhile
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And in your sorrow to you through the years.
But set out bravely with a gallant smile
And in my sake and in my name
Love and do all things the same.
Feed your loneliness on empty days
But in each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And in turn, will comfort you and hold you near
And you, ever be afraid to die,
For I’m waiting for you in the sky.
ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude
Precessional
Hymn . . . . . . . . . . . . "Blessed Assurance"
Invocation . . . . . . Rev. Richard Stewart
(Durham Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church)
Scripture:
Old Testament . . . Psalm 139:14-24
Solo . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . "Rock of Ages"
Mr. Henry Nance
Acknowledgements and Litany
Reading . . . . . . . . . . Rev. Richard Stewart
Solo . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . "If I Can Help Somebody"
Mr. Henry Nance
Eulogy . . . . . . . . . . Rev. William Cobb
Reception . . . . . . . . . . Rev. Pedro Castro

"I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."
(St. John 11: 25-26)
PALLBEARERS
Ronald Peoples
James Welch
Roger Strother
Roger Burke
Gerald Brown
Joseph Bass

FLOWER PALLBEARERS
Friends of the Family

INTERMENT
Forest Lawn Cemetery

ARRANGEMENTS
H. Alfred Lewis Mortuary, Inc.
968 Jefferson Ave
Buffalo, New York

* * *

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family wishes to thank the church, friends and neighbors for the many prayers, beautiful flowers, cards of comfort and sympathy. Your acts of kindness and thoughtfulness helped to give us strength in our time of bereavement.