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### 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 Ashville, 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 sister came in at 9:15 p.m. and beautiful it  
was to see,  
For a captain was King Jesus, and softly He  
could me.  
I ran across the leeway and fell down at His feet.  
He came gently in His arms;  
My rest is now complete.

\* \* \*

## "WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU"

When I must leave you for awhile  
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears  
And let your sorrows to you through the years.  
But let me out bravely with a gallant smile  
And for my sake and in my name  
Love and do all things the same.  
Feed not your loneliness on empty days  
But let 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 never, ever be afraid to die,  
For I'm waiting for you in the sky.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Melode

Proceonal

Hymn . . . . . "Blessed Assurance"

Invocation . . . . . Rev. Richard Stewart  
(Durham Memorial  
A.M.E. Zion Church)

Testament . . . . . Psalm 139:14-24

Testament . . . . . Revelation 21:1-7

Solo . . . . . "Rock of Ages"  
Mr. Henry Nance

Acknowledgements and  
Eulogary

Rema . . . . . Rev. Richard Stewart

Solo . . . . . "If I Can Help Somebody"  
Mr. Henry Nance

Eulo . . . . . Rev. William Cobb

Receonal . . . . . 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 Brownrout  
General Bass

FLOWER PALLBEARERS . . . . . Friends of the  
Family

INTERMENT . . . . . Forest Lawn Ceme

ARRANGEMENTS . . . . . H. Alfred Lewis  
Mortuary, Inc.  
968 Jefferson Av  
Buffalo, New Yor

\* \* \*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family wishes to thank the church, fr  
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.

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