



Bernet McDowell Johnson

March 29, 2020

Bernet McDowell Johnson born October 1, 1926 to Parker and Evie McDowell in Gloster, Mississippi, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, March 29, 2020. She was 93 years old. Bernet, who is affectionately called Dear, by her children and grandchildren, matriculated through the public school systems of Mississippi and Louisiana and graduated from Southern University at Baton Rouge. After graduation, she devoted her life to educating children. From hiking and camping with Boy Scout Troop 185 to teaching elementary school students in Orleans Parish for over 20 years. Dear loved to mold young minds and they enjoyed her company. Dear accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age under the pastorship of her grandfather Rev. Isaac Simmons. While living briefly in Memphis Tennessee, she was filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues under the Pastorship of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, founder of the Church of God in Christ. Soon thereafter, Dear moved to New Orleans and married Roosevelt "Ripoli" Johnson Sr. and to this union two sons were born, Roosevelt Johnson, Jr. and Jerry Lee Johnson. Dear loved church, choral music and sewing. She was very active in ministry under the pastorship of her father-in-law Rev. R. Johnson. Rev. Johnson pastored two churches, one in the lower ninth Ward of New Orleans, Mercy Seat Baptist Church and Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Sorrento, Louisiana. In these ministries, Dear served as the pianist and choral director as well as the seamstress in sewing all of the choir member robes. After Rev. Johnson's passing, she became a member of Greater St. Stephen

under the leadership of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. While a member at Greater St. Stephen, she sang in the Voices of Faith, The Heritage Chorus, the Greater St. Stephen Mass Choir and was the pianist for Sunday School. Preceding her in death, her parents, Parker and Evie McDowell, two sons, John Johnson and Roosevelt Johnson, Jr., her granddaughter, Joni Johnson, her husband, Roosevelt "Ripoli" Johnson Sr., 3 brothers: Mack McDowell, Howard McDowell, & Felton McDowell and 3 sisters: Cleo McDowell-Williams, Donnis McDowell-Flagg, & Ottie McDowell-Akins. She leaves to cherish her memory: her children, Jerry Lee Johnson (Ethel) of Indiana, Linda Spiller (Wilbert) of California, Rodney Johnson Sr. (Carmen) of California, 2 brothers: Verrice McDowell, Thomas (Sandra) McDowell both of Illinois and 5 sisters: Ceola (Aden) McDowell-Smith, Mary McDowell-Moss both of Illinois, Ruth (Charles) McDowell-Williams of Georgia, Attie (Willis) McDowell-Newsome, Virgie McDowell both of Illinois; Ten grandchildren: Rev. Rodney Johnson, Jr. (Percilla) of Shreveport, Louisiana, Karen Johnson, Robert Johnson, Mark Spiller all of California, Ronald Johnson, Sr. (Ladonna), Adrian Johnson (Avis), Carl Johnson (Angela) of Jacksonville, Florida, Taresha Johnson of Tampa, Florida, Jori Johnson and Jared Johnson (Amber) of Woodbridge, Virginia; 18 great grandchildren; 6 great-great grandchildren and over seventy nieces and nephews.

Due to COVID-19, the Funeral Service is private. Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue.

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ I told Dear that when I was growing up , I remember coming to her house to play and spend time with my brothers. I was always on the lookout for her to treat me different because I was another woman's child. But she never did. She disciplined me the same, she hugged and showed me the same love as well as making my plate of food the same. I told her that she always made me feel like I was just as much her child as my brothers Rip Jr and Jerry. Dear looked me in my eyes and said, " Listen baby. You children didn't have anything to do with what grownup folks was choosing to do, and we so call grownups should never hold you children accountable or responsible for it, because you are not!!! You are all our babies, the most valuable thing we have, and we should treat as such because you are!!! Remember that. I said , yes ma'am, and I did. Again, thank you for you being you Dear. Peace

Rodney Johnson - April 17, 2020 at 12:51 PM