



## Rufus Johnson III

April 26, 2023

On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, Rufus Henry Johnson, III, transitioned this life and is now resting in the presence of the Lord.

Rufus was born on February 27, 1949, in Mobile AL to the late Rufus Johnson, Jr and Marjorie Williams Johnson Harris.

Rufus accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized by Reverend Leroy Boykins, at True Light Baptist Church, Mobile, AL. As an adult, he continued his membership at Greater St Stephens Full Gospel Baptist Church. In 1981 he became a member of First Baptist New Orleans. As Rufus matured in his faith, his primary focus became "God, family, friends and community."

Rufus attended Robert R. Moton Elementary School, formerly located in the Desire Housing Development. After completing sixth grade, he attended George Washington Carver Junior High School. Following Junior High School, he attended Booker T. Washington High School and graduated in 1967. In the spring of 1968, Rufus enrolled in college at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) and completed three years, majoring in the field of Business Administration.

On October 22, 1974, Rufus voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army. Due to medical reasons, his length of service was shortened, and was honorably discharged on February 21, 1975.

With a strong commitment and determination to succeed, Rufus started on a path towards becoming an entrepreneur. This journey would lead to several successful ventures and businesses. Rufus received many Awards,

Certificates of Appreciations and Keys to the City of New Orleans from former mayors.

Rufus was a humanitarian who donated time, money, and other forms of generosity to make life better for people throughout communities. Examples include providing school supplies, school uniforms, delivering food boxes to those in need, and financial support for New Orleans culture, and music. Especially, participants of Super Sunday. He will be remembered for his unconditional love, compassion and generosity.

Rufus was united in holy matrimony to Derene Wise Moses. From this union a son was born, Rufus Henry Johnson, IV. Later, he was united in holy matrimony to Virginia Baker Johnson. From this union a son was born, James Paul Johnson. He was blessed to have one grandchild, Rufus Henry Johnson, V. More than any of the aforementioned, Rufus' strongest commitment was to his sons, grandson, siblings and other family members.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend his Funeral Service at First Baptist Church, 5290 Canal Blvd. on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 11:00 am. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am. Interment: Lakelawn Cemetery. Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue. Please visit [www.rhodesfuneral.com](http://www.rhodesfuneral.com) to sign the guestbook.

# Cemetery Details

## Lakelawn Metairie Cemetery

5100 Pontchartrain Blvd  
New Orleans, LA 70124

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 6. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
5290 Canal Blvd  
New Orleans, LA 70112

## Funeral Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
5290 Canal Blvd  
New Orleans, LA 70112

# Tribute Wall

ES

“ *My deepest condolences & prayers to The Johnson Family, To Lil Rufus, and James. May God provide the angels of peace, comfort, and strength during this difficult time. From Clinton (Eastwood) Sordelet & Betty Sordelet.*



---

**E. Martin for Mr. Clinton Sordelet** - May 07, 2023 at 02:29 AM

TT

“ *Someone who shared so much of life with you will forever be a part of you. Keeping you in my prayers as you remember your father.*”

*T. Thomas*

---

**Terri Thomas** - May 06, 2023 at 10:56 AM

BL

“ *My deepest condolences. He was a real one. Relentless and resourceful. Tried and true. Always the same and always Mr Rufus Johnson.*

---

**blair** - May 05, 2023 at 09:41 PM