



## Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen

January 15, 1951 - May 28, 2022

### A TIME TO LIVE

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises" Psalm 98:4

Bessie Lee Johnsen was born on January 15, 1951, in Sandhill, Mississippi. She was loved dearly by her parents, Cleo Burnett, Earline Donald, & Mingo Donald, as well as her sixteen siblings. She was preceded in death by her parents, two (2) sisters, Idell Miggins & Christine Burnett; and four (4) brothers, Floyd "Pistol" Donald, Mingo "June Bug" Donald Jr., Lacey Donald, and Leo "Dank" Donald, & Willie Donald.

Bessie was one of the first students to transition from Carter High School to a once segregated Pisgah High School where she graduated with honors. Her passion to join the civil rights movement resulted in her being temporarily incarcerated while fighting against racial discrimination during a march in solidarity with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She believed if you did not stand for something, you would fall for anything. Bessie was no stranger to hard work and her willingness to learn new skills was unparalleled. She was a beacon of light that paved a way for many to admire and follow.

While keeping God's commandment to "remember thy creator in the days of

thy youth" Bessie became a member of Mt. Pisgah M.B. Church, now under the leadership of Pastor Curtis Fletcher. She devoted most of her time to serving others. She was a minister of music committed to praising and worshipping God while sharing the gospel with all through the gift of song.

## A TIME TO TRANSITION

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him" - James 1:12

In 2012, Bessie was diagnosed with colon cancer, but her faith in Jesus surpassed all doubt. The doctors gave her 6 months to live but God gave her 10 years! He saw she was getting weary and called her home on May 28, 2022, at 1:10 PM in the comfort of her home.

## A TIME TO REMEMBER

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" - Matthew 5:4

Bessie was loved by many and wanted them to know that she will see them again on the other side. She leaves to cherish her memories: husband, Christopher Johnsen; Flowood, Mississippi; one (1) son, Keenan (Lois) O'Neal and one daughter (1) Chelsea Gross, both from Brandon, Mississippi; six (6) sisters, Rebecca Gore; Lansing, Michigan, Ethel (Bob) Tribbel of Brandon, Mississippi; Earline McKee, Luretha (Roy) Taylor, Estella (Glynn) Taylor, and Shirley Hill, all from Gary, Indiana; four (4) brothers, Elbert (Helen) Donald of D'Lo, Mississippi, Leroy (Jessie) Donald of Brandon, Mississippi, Simon (Lois) Donald of Lansing, Michigan, five (5) grandchildren; Jakavien (Jackie) Winsley of Sandhill, Mississippi, Gabrielle 'Quinn, Dylan Fletcher, Kennydi O'Neal, Keenan O'Neal Jr.; two (2) great-grandchildren, Jurnee & Jaycee Winsley and

a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 11. 4:00 PM (CT)

"Lovie" Dean Memorial Chapel  
745 Hwy 468  
Brandon, MS 39042

# Tribute Wall



“ Dean Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



Dean Memorial Funeral Home - June 06, 2022 at 05:37 PM

LB

*This song is so her. She will be walking around Heaven smiling and singing. I'm so sorry for your loss 🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️*

Lakesha Batte - June 07, 2022 at 03:01 PM

BG

*Absolutely beautiful.*

Beverly Gross - June 07, 2022 at 03:32 PM

G-

*My deepest condolences & sympathy to the family with love... 🙏  
Cousin*

Gloria Powell -cousin - June 11, 2022 at 11:16 AM

WM

*Thankful for the memories and time spent together. Memories last a lifetime. Love you both Chelsea and Keenan*

Will McLin - June 11, 2022 at 04:44 PM

LE

*My prayers and condolences.*

Lois D Evans - June 12, 2022 at 05:49 PM

GG

*I love you nana ❤️*

**gabby girl** - September 08, 2022 at 02:59 PM

MB

“ *Myra Boone lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen*



**Myra Boone** - June 14, 2022 at 10:57 PM

WM

“ *Will McLin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen*



**Will McLin** - June 11, 2022 at 04:40 PM

GS

“ *Thoughts of love with Prayers for Comfort and Strength to Endure*



**Gwendolyn & Dallas Sutton** - June 11, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen.*



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June 11, 2022 at 12:00 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy for you guys. Praying that you will let the memories of your mom comfort you.*

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**Gwendolyn Franklin & Family** - June 11, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ *Koresha Mclin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen*



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**Koresha Mclin** - June 10, 2022 at 09:55 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen.*



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June 10, 2022 at 05:10 PM

GG

“ Gabby Girl lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



Gabby Girl - June 10, 2022 at 04:28 PM

AC

“ Ava Clanton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



Ava Clanton - June 10, 2022 at 09:46 AM

KM

“ Karen McCoy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



Karen McCoy - June 10, 2022 at 01:25 AM

IB

“ Iris Bolton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



Iris Bolton - June 08, 2022 at 03:52 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen.



June 08, 2022 at 10:43 AM



“ I will always remember her beautiful smile. Praying for my family. Love you guys!!



Rosie Evans - June 08, 2022 at 12:44 AM



“ BessieTaylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



BessieTaylor - June 07, 2022 at 10:25 PM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen.



Domonique Fletcher - June 07, 2022 at 09:21 PM

TM

“ Tony McCoy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



Tony McCoy - June 07, 2022 at 09:09 PM

RW

“ Randy Wallace lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen



Randy Wallace - June 07, 2022 at 09:08 PM

DF

“ Lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen.



Domonique Fletcher - June 07, 2022 at 09:02 PM

SS

“ She knew she could sing No Ordinary Worship



Samantha Scott - June 07, 2022 at 07:23 PM

BG

*She sure could*

**Beverly Gross** - June 07, 2022 at 08:22 PM

LG

“ *Lynnette Griffin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen*



**Lynnette Griffin** - June 07, 2022 at 04:39 PM

TG

“ *I would like to send my love an prayer to my family she will be truely miss an praying for my cuzins I love yal*

**tarra gross** - June 07, 2022 at 04:18 PM

AK

“ *I have sooooo many memories of the sweet spirit. Very fun and will always remember!! Love y'all!!!!*



**Arria Knight** - June 06, 2022 at 07:03 PM



“ *What a feisty and beautiful spirit! She definitely left an impression on everyone she met. That smile was infectious. She has left this world an amazing gift in her amazing children and grandchildren and all that she instilled in them.*

*Love you so much mama Bessie. You are in incredible company now. Rest well. 🧡*

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**Quennette Stanford** - June 06, 2022 at 05:15 PM



TU

“ *Tute lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen*

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**Tute** - June 06, 2022 at 01:17 PM



GF

“ *Gwendolyn Franklin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Bessie Lee Johnsen*

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**Gwendolyn Franklin** - June 04, 2022 at 01:48 PM

