



## Mrs. Edith Earlene Johnson

December 23, 1944 - May 4, 2022

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of the Shadow of death, I will fear not evil; for thou are with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me." Psalm 23:3-4

Edith Earlene Betha Johnson was born December 23, 1944, to the late Dorothy Cole Betha and Bennie Betha in Washington, D.C. She was the eldest of three girls born to this union, her sister, Clara Betha Priestley preceded her in death and her youngest sister, Jacquelyn resides in Charlotte, NC with her husband, Jose. It was love that made the decision, it was love that allowed Jacquelyn to leave the comfort of her home and it was love and a grateful heart that kept her at the bedside of her sister. Edith and Jacquelyn reminisced about the past as she pledged her love to care and support to her brother-in-law, Willie Earl.

Edith confessed Christ as her Personal Savior at an early age at Simon Hill Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of her late grandfather, Pastor Washington Cole, Sr.

Edith attended Daniel Hand Elementary School in Tougaloo, MS and later attended Holy Ghost Catholic School in Jackson, MS. She was a graduate of Tougaloo College with a degree in Education. In college, Edith joined the AKA

sorority and became incredibly involved in various activities and outreach opportunities. The bond formed with her AKA sisters lasted a lifetime and forever in her heart.

Her passion for teaching and her compassion for her students lead her to spend more than 40 years as a devoted and dedicated educator. Edith was highly regarded for her skills and her NO NON-SENSE policy when it came to her student's behavior- it was not tolerated period. She had the unique gift to set the bar high for her students, at the same time showed them how to achieve their goals. The quality of her life's work is evident not only in her awards and citations received, but also in the countless times she was lovingly remembered by her students, family, and friends.

Edith was united in marriage to Oliver Charles Rice and the union was blessed with : children, Oliver Charles Rice, Jr., of New Castle, Delaware and Angela Marie Rice Burnett of Greensboro, N.C. On December 29, 1985, she was united in holy matrimony to the love of her life, Mr. Willie Earl Johnson- her true love, soulmate, and best friend, who delighted in making her happy, treasured and loved. Edith and Willie Earl enjoyed traveling together, she loved his sense of humor and he loved her for loving him, this was their love story. Love allowed them to open their home and adopt Willie Earl Johnson, Jr. (Kinesha) who resides in Virginia.

Edith legacy of love will live forever in the hearts of her loving and devoted husband, Willie Earl Johnson, children, Charles, Jr, Angela, Willie Earl, Jr., LaDarrell Perry and Michael Dixon. Grandchildren, Oliver III, Donavon Rice, Sol, Laura, Joshua, Isaiah, and Samuel Burnett. Her adoring sister, Jacquelyn Jose), Aunts, Mary L Cole and Charlene Cole of Jackson, Annie Laura Cole of Ridgeland and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friend.

# Cemetery Details

## Paradise Gardens Memorial Cemetery

745 Hwy 468  
Brandon, MS 39042

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 13. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Dean Memorial Funeral Home  
745 Highway 468  
Brandon, MS 39042  
(601) 825-3884  
<https://deanmemorialfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

MAY 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Dean Memorial Funeral Home  
745 Highway 468  
Brandon, MS 39042  
(601) 825-3884  
<https://deanmemorialfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dean Memorial Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Edith Earlene Johnson*



---

**Dean Memorial Funeral Home** - May 14, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ *1 file added to the album HomeGoing Celebration*



---

**Dean Memorial Funeral Home** - May 14, 2022 at 04:35 PM

JC

*Condolences to family, friends and neighbors of Mrs. Johnson!!!*

---

**Janice Coleman** - May 14, 2022 at 05:26 PM

YJ

“ *Oliver, I'm praying for you and your family today. Job Well Done Mrs. Edith Johnson.*

---

**Yvonne & Joshua** - May 14, 2022 at 10:40 AM

GW

“ *Sending Love and Comfort to the Family of  
Our Classmate Edith .*

*Rosa Scott High School Class of 1962.  
Gwendolyn Barnes Willams*

**Gwendolyn Willams** - May 11, 2022 at 02:36 PM



AP

“ *Rest In Peace Big Mama, I will forever miss  
and love you so much you mean so much to  
me.💕*

**Alicia Perry** - May 07, 2022 at 11:43 PM



MT

“ *Rest Well Mrs. Edith. You were the kindest soul anyone could meet.  
Always a kind helpful word. You will be missed.*

*The Toines  
Mae, Earnest, Tia and Garren*

**Mae Toines** - May 07, 2022 at 10:54 AM

BC

“ *Love you MOM  
May you Rest In Peace I'm going to miss you  
😭 Brenda Kaye Calvin  
Portland, Oregon*

**Brenda Kaye Calvin** - May 06, 2022 at 05:46 PM



DB

*Special prayers for the family of Edith Johnson from the Office of Alumni Relations at Tougaloo College. I had the pleasure of working with her in the Development Office at the College several years ago; I will always cherish the memories we shared.*

*Doris Griffith Bridgeman  
Director of Alumni Relations*

---

**Doris Griffith Bridgeman** - May 11, 2022 at 01:38 PM