



## Esther Johnson

May 21, 1934 - June 5, 2022

Celebrating A Life Well-Lived

Esther Lucille Washington Johnson

Sunrise May 21, 1934 ~ Sunset June 5, 2022

### Services Held

Friday, June 17, 2022 - Strolling Visitation 4pm - 7pm

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI 48075

Saturday, June 18, 2022 10am - Family Hour

Saturday, June 18, 2022 10:30am - Homegoing Service

Canton Christian Fellowship

8775 Ronda Drive, Canton, MI 48187

Pastor David Washington Jr. Officiating

Virtual Homegoing Service:

YouTube: Cantoncf

Facebook: Canton Christian Fellowship

Esther Lucille Washington was born on May 21, 1934 in Lemont Furnace, Pennsylvania to the parents of Luther {Percy} and Lellia Washington. Esther was the 11th child born into a family of sixteen children. She spent her childhood growing up in Grindstone, Pennsylvania where she attended Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Throughout her childhood she was an active member in church plays and sang in the choir. She excelled in school and attended Redstone Elementary, Madison Elementary, Brownsville Jr. High, and Brownsville Sr. High Schools where she graduated in 1952.

After graduating from High School, Esther moved to New York City where she worked in a jewelry factory. She lived with her older sisters Viola and Frances, as well as her Uncle Joe and Aunt May. A year later her childhood sweetheart, Rufus Donald Johnson arrived in New York City and swooped her off her feet. They were married April 10, 1954 and moved to New Jersey. A few years later they welcomed their first son, Donald.

After moving to Detroit in the 60's, three more children were born to their union; Denise, Kevin and Mark. In 1964 the family purchased their first home on Cheyenne Street. Esther became "the mother" of the neighborhood. Her family and children's friends often stopped by to just talk with Esther. Guests were always welcomed and often dined with the family. Everyone loved her cooking, especially her famous macaroni and cheese and her homemade apple pie. Esther and Rufus opened their home to siblings and other relatives when they moved to Detroit and gained employment. Esther enjoyed bowling, playing bingo and Pokeno with her friends, and playing cards and board games with her family. Esther's beautiful qualities were her kind spirit, warm

smile, her nurturing love and care.

While volunteering at her youngest son's pre-school, she developed a passion for working with children and decided to enroll in college to earn a degree.

Esther excelled but circumstances arose, and she was unable to complete her degree in the last year. Esther worked at Barat Human Services, League of Catholic Women Home for Girls. She worked through the ranks and became a supervisor. She received many accolades for her service before her retirement.

After Rufus' retirement from General Motors, Esther and Rufus relocated to Fruitland Park, Florida in 1998, where they built their dream home. Their Fruitland Park home was known as the "Johnson Hotel" as family and friends visited the Walt Disney resort. Esther was an active member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. She opened her home to her grandsons; Dante and Darnell, who lived with them for several years as they became young men. The grandsons still reside in Florida with their families.

In 2019 when Esther and Rufus' health began to decline, they returned to Michigan to be with their children and grandchildren. They were welcomed back to Detroit with a 63rd Wedding Anniversary Party hosted by their children. Esther stayed strong in her faith and was a member of Canton Christian Fellowship, in Canton, Michigan. Esther happily celebrated her last 88th Birthday with her family and friends.

Esther was predeceased by her parents, her husband ; siblings

She leaves her cherished memories with her children; Her sister ; sister-in-laws . Grandchildren; ; great grandchildren; . Also, a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Prayer.....Pastor, Shelley Washington-Webb

Scripture Old Testament

Scripture New Testament

Remarks:

Cards and Acknowledgements.....Toni Woolfork-Barnes

Obituary.....Toni Woolfork-Barnes

Selection.....CCF Voices of Praise

Eulogy.....Pastor, David Washington Jr.

Recessional....."Going Up Yonder"

Pall Bearers.....Friends and Family

My Sister, My Boo

To my sister, My Boo, yes Esther that's you.

When my back was up against the wall,

You were as close as a telephone call.

When I was confused and couldn't decide,

You were the only one by my side.

When I was upset and needed to cry,  
You understood the reasons why.  
When I thought that I couldn't go on,  
You gave me your shoulder to lean on.  
Saying thanks is not enough,  
For your love, support and all that stuff.  
My love for you will never fade,  
As a sister, an A+ is your grade.  
Thank you from the bottom of my heart,  
These words of thanks are just a start.  
TO MY SISTER, MY BOO  
YES, ESTHER THAT'S YOU!!!  
Love Always,  
Your Baby Sister, Joan

The Broken Chain  
We little knew that morning  
That GOD would call YOUR NAME.  
In LIFE we LOVED you dearly  
In death we do the same.  
It broke our HEARTS to lose YOU  
YOU did NOT go alone.  
For part of US went with YOU  
The day GOD called YOU HOME.  
You left us BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES  
Your LOVE is still our GUIDE.  
And although WE cannot see YOU  
YOUR'RE always by OUR side.  
Our Family CHAIN is broken  
And NOTHING seems the same.

But as GOD calls us ONE by ONE  
The CHAIN will LINK again.  
Love, Your Family

I'm Free  
Don't grieve for me, for now, I am free.  
I'm following the path God has chosen for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I've now found peace at the end of the day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things, I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
Look for the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seems all too brief  
Don't lengthen your pain with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,  
God wanted me now – He set me free.  
Love Your Granddaughter,

Donielle

A Poem For My Mother

If flowers grow in Heaven

Lord, then pick a bunch for me.

Then place them in my mother's arms

And tell her they're from me.

Tell her that I love and miss her

And when she turns to smile,

Place a kiss upon her cheek

And hold her for a while.

Love Your Daughter,

Denise

In Loving Memory of Granny

You left us beautiful memories

Your love is still our guide.

Although we cannot see you,

You are always by our side.

Love,

Daesha & Jada

Mother

Thought of You Today

But that is nothing new

I thought about you yesterday

And days before too  
I think of you in silence,  
I often speak your name.  
All I have are memories  
And your picture in a frame.  
Your memory is a keepsake  
From which I'll never part.  
God has you in His arms  
We have you in our hearts.  
Love,  
Donald, Denise, Kevin and Mark

#### Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love and kindness shown to them during their loss. May God Bless & Keep You!

#### Final Arrangements Entrusted To:

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI 48075 Park Association Inc.

#### Interment

Detroit Memorial Park Association Inc.  
25062 Plymouth Road  
Redford, MI 48239

In lieu of flowers, donations will support the Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund at the University of Michigan. Checks may be payable to "University of Michigan" and sent to 777 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Suite 650. Ann Arbor, MI 48108. Please include "in memory of Esther L. Johnson in the memo line of the check or in an attached note. You may also call 734-764-6777 or visit the website <https://victors.us/estherljohnson> to make your gift.

# Cemetery Details

## Detroit Memorial Park-West

25200 Plymouth Road  
Redford Charter Township, MI 48239

# Previous Events

## Strolling Visitation

JUN 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

## Family/Friends Time

JUN 18. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Canton Christian Fellowship  
8775 Ronda Dr.  
Canton, MI 48187

## Funeral Service

---

JUN 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

Canton Christian Fellowship  
8775 Ronda Dr.  
Canton, MI 48187

# Tribute Wall



“ *Esther Johnson*

May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



May 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ *Esther Johnson*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Esther Johnson*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Miss Johnson was a sweet heart god bless her.*



**Failon Turner** - July 10, 2022 at 06:35 PM



“ *Miss Johnson was a sweet heart god bless her.*



July 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *A woman who gave much of herself and loved her family' dearly, May God Bless you RIP, my sincere Condolences to The Johnson Family Marilyn Washington*

July 06, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the family.*

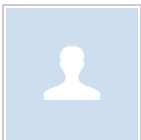
*Our sincere prayers and condolences are with you all.  
Look to Jesus. He is the God of all comfort. We love you.  
Paul and Sandra Glover*

**Sandra Glover** - June 18, 2022 at 07:17 AM



*A woman who gave much of herself and loved her family' dearly, May God Bless you RIP, my sincere Condolences to The Johnson Family Marilyn Washington*

**M Washington** - July 06, 2022 at 08:53 AM



“ *To the family. Our sincere prayers and condolences are with you all. Look to Jesus. He is the God of all comfort. We love you. Paul and Sandra Glover*

June 18, 2022 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ On behalf of the entire Pickens family rest in heaven and our heart felt condolences to the family!

The Pickens Family - June 17, 2022 at 02:59 PM



“ On behalf of the entire Pickens family rest in heaven and our heart felt condolences to the family!

June 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Donielle Johnson - June 16, 2022 at 03:08 AM

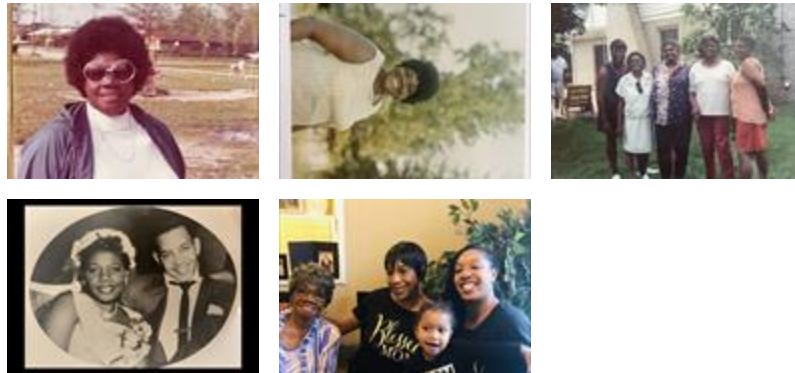


“ 3 files added to the tribute wall

June 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ 25 files added to the tribute wall



**Denise Johnson McIntosh** - June 15, 2022 at 07:47 PM

DS

“ *Kandi and Family - I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I sent a gift in Esther's memory to U of M's research.*

**Donna Sue Summers** - June 15, 2022 at 04:52 PM

KJ

*Donna, thank you for your donation and heartfelt prayers! God's blessings to you!*

**Kandi, Kevin and Kylee Johnson** - June 15, 2022 at 10:10 PM

GS

“ *Sending deepest sympathy and prayers to the entire Johnson family. Kandi, your work family is thinking about you as you grieve the loss of Esther, we can only image the joy and laughter she has brought in her 88 years. In remembrance of her, we send you much love.*

*Glenda and the entire Clinical informatics team*

**Glenda Sparkman** - June 15, 2022 at 01:52 PM

KJ

*Glenda and the gang! Thank you for the support! You are all amazing and God has blessed me with the MOST amazing work family, your love is alive and much appreciated. Kandi, Kevin and Kylee*

Kandi, Kevin and Kylee Johnson - June 15, 2022 at 10:14 PM



“ *Sending deepest sympathy and prayers to the entire Johnson family. Kandi, your work family is thinking about you as you grieve the loss of Esther, we can only image the joy and laughter she has brought in her 88 years. In remembrance of her, we send you much love. Glenda and the entire Clinical informatics team*

June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kandi and Family - I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I sent a gift in Esther's memory to U of M's research.*

June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *25 files added to the tribute wall*

June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *Glenda and the gang! Thank you for the support! You are all amazing and God has blessed me with the MOST amazing work family, your love is alive and much appreciated. Kandi, Kevin and Kylee*

June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM



*“ Kathy, Thank you! Your hugs are most appreciated at this time of grief. Love Kandi. Kevin and Kylee*

June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM



*“ To Vicki, Jan, Rick, Valerie, Jetta and family! Your love and heartfelt sympathy means the world to us! Kandi, Kevin and Kylee!*

June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM



*“ Donna, thank you for your donation and heartfelt prayers! God's blessings to you!*

June 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM



*“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Esther Johnson.*

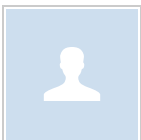


June 14, 2022 at 03:24 PM



*“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Esther Johnson.*

June 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM



*“ To my cousins I love you all sending prayers and hugs*

June 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ The Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Grindstone, PA was saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend Esther. We would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family. Esther was a former member who grew up in our church. We know she is resting with our Lord. May God give you Peace and comfort at this difficult time. God Bless you. Submitted by Cynthia K. Hackett, Pastor, Sandra McCain, Associate Minister. Sarah Sanders, Church Secretary.

Sarah Sanders - June 13, 2022 at 09:16 PM

KK

“ Dear Kevin, Kandi, Kylee and family,  
We are very sorry to here of your Mother's passing.  
Sending hugs and love, Kathy and Russ xo

Kathy Khoury - June 13, 2022 at 04:44 PM

KJ

Kathy, Thank you! Your hugs are most appreciated at this time of grief.  
Love Kandi. Kevin and Kylee

Kandi, Kevin and Kylee Johnson - June 15, 2022 at 10:16 PM

VS

“ Dear Kevin and Kandi,  
Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to you at this time of great loss. May your fond memories, dear friends and family help sustain you through this difficult time. Esther is in our Lord's heart and now in His glory where we know there is no more suffering and sadness.  
With Deepest Sympathy, Greg and Vicky Stevens

Vicky Stevens - June 13, 2022 at 11:21 AM

JS

*Kevin, Kandi, and Kylee, your mom was a classy lady. I send hugs and prayers for you all*

Jan & Rick Shifferd - June 13, 2022 at 12:48 PM

VM

*So sorry for your loss. Hugs & Prayers. Love you all.*

Valerie McClellan - June 13, 2022 at 01:31 PM

JF

*To my cousins I love you all sending prayers and hugs*

Jetta and family - June 14, 2022 at 10:24 PM

KJ

*To Vicki, Jan, Rick, Valerie, Jetta and family! Your love and heartfelt sympathy means the world to us! Kandi, Kevin and Kylee!*

Kandi, Kevin and Kylee Johnson - June 15, 2022 at 10:18 PM



“*Dear Kevin, Kandi, Kylee and family, We are very sorry to here of your Mother's passing. Sending hugs and love, Kathy and Russ xo*

June 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“*The Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Grindstone, PA was saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend Esther. We would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family. Esther was a former member who grew up in our church. We know she is resting with our Lord. May God give you Peace and comfort at this difficult time. God Bless you. Submitted by Cynthia K. Hackett, Pastor, Sandra McCain, Associate Minister. Sarah Sanders, Church Secretary.*

June 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Kevin and Kandi, Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to you at this time of great loss. May your fond memories, dear friends and family help sustain you through this difficult time. Esther is in our Lord's heart and now in His glory where we know there is no more suffering and sadness. With Deepest Sympathy, Greg and Vicky Stevens

---

June 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ Kevin, Kandi, and Kylee ,your mom was a classy lady. I send hugs and prayers for you all

---

June 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Hugs & Prayers. Love you all.

---

June 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Donielle Johnson** - June 12, 2022 at 01:00 PM

DJ

*My grandmother always made sure that I knew she loved me. Often her and Papa will travel from Detroit Michigan to Miami Florida to visit me. This is such a special picture because my maternal grandmother and paternal grandmother are captured in the same photo! What a blessing! From (left to right) Lela Beeks, Esther Johnson, Billie Johnson(Beeks), and myself Donielle Johnson*

---

**Donielle Johnson** - June 12, 2022 at 01:11 PM

JH

“ *Mrs. Johnson was a beautiful woman with a quiet kind dignity that I admired. She was also a good neighbor. She babysat for my daughter, making it possible to fill a gap in overlapping work and school schedules. Not many would take on the challenge of caring for a baby, but she did it. She always led by example and that's the best testament of all.*

---

**Joann Hill** - June 12, 2022 at 08:50 AM



“ *Mrs. Johnson was a beautiful woman with a quiet kind dignity that I admired. She was also a good neighbor. She babysat for my daughter, making it possible to fill a gap in overlapping work and school schedules. Not many would take on the challenge of caring for a baby, but she did it. She always led by example and that's the best testament of all.*

---

June 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

---

June 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ My grandmother always made sure that I knew she loved me. Often her and Papa will travel from Detroit Michigan to Miami Florida to visit me. This is such a special picture because my maternal grandmother and paternal grandmother are captured in the same photo! What a blessing! From (left to right) Lela Beeks, Esther Johnson, Billie Johnson(Beeks), and myself Donielle Johnson

June 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ While working with Esther at Barat Human services, I will always remember how she had a way of finding the positive In everyone she met

**Linda Jones** - June 09, 2022 at 12:31 PM



“ While working with Esther at Barat Human services, I will always remember how she had a way of finding the positive In everyone she met

June 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ I just wanted to send the family my prayers for your loss may God continue to keep bless & guide the entire family at this hour. I use to work with Don Johnson.

**Trease Jackson** - June 08, 2022 at 01:55 PM



“ I just wanted to send the family my prayers for your loss may God continue to keep bless & guide the entire family at this hour. I use to work with Don Johnson.

June 08, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *My Grandmother was very special And she will be truly missed. All the life lessons and precious memories. :-)* I will never forget what she taught me and how she loved me. She was encouraging and always keeping me grounded. I love you forever and a day!



Love, your grabd daughter **Domonique** - June 07, 2022 at 08:41 PM



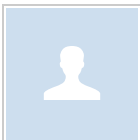
“ *Came home from college one time and visited Aunt Esther and we shared a wonderful 2 hours together laughing and reminiscing. She was always kind and she kept a smile on her face*

**David Washington** - June 07, 2022 at 08:29 PM



“ *My Grandmother was very special And she will be truly missed. All the life lessons and precious memories. -)* I will never forget what she taught me and how she loved me. She was encouraging and always keeping me grounded. I love you forever and a day!

June 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *Came home from college one time and visited Aunt Esther and we shared a wonderful 2 hours together laughing and reminiscing. She was always kind and she kept a smile on her face*

June 07, 2022 at 12:00 AM