



SFC (Ret.) George Edward Johnson Sr.

November 12, 1929 - December 14, 2024

SFC George E. Johnson, Sr (Retired) drew his last breath on earth and his first in heaven on December 14, 2024, surrounded by family and friends who loved him dearly. He was born November 12, 1929, in Antreville, SC, the first of seven children of Carrie Skirty Johnson and William “Bill” Osceola Johnson. From early childhood, he worked hard, helping his daddy sharecrop to provide for their family during the Jim Crow era. In search of better opportunities, he left Antreville and went to live with his aunt in Washington, DC.

In June, 1948 he enlisted in the US Army. The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 resulted in two deployments to South Korea. When the war ended, he was stationed at Fort Mead, Maryland. At a casual gathering in Washington DC, he met the love of his life—Mary Elizabeth Kyle. They were married on Feb 4, 1956. They began their life together at Fort Bragg, NC where he served with the 82nd Airborne Division. At Fort Bragg, their daughters Rene and Helena were born. He was then stationed at Hanau, Germany. His family grew there through the births of his son, George, Jr., and daughter Sandra.

His next duty station was Fort Campbell, KY, where he was a member of the acclaimed 101st Airborne Division. Between 1962 and 1968, he graduated from Drill Sergeant school at Fort Jackson, SC and the 101st Jump Master school. As a drill sergeant, he molded young recruits into battle-ready soldiers. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1968. His family also expanded

during these years with the births of son Ronald and daughter Margaret.

He retired from the Army in 1969. He and his family settled in Columbia, SC where he began a second career as a nuclear pellet operator at Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel Division. Numerous coworkers became part of his extended family. He retired from Westinghouse in 1990 with 20 years of service.

His retirement gave him more time to devote to family, church, and community. He was an avid gardener, where he found solace and connection to God. He delighted in sharing the bounty from his gardens with family, friends, neighbors, and fellow church members. He also helped rear grandchildren, great grandchildren and was a mentor to dozens of others who considered him their granddaddy.

For 50 years he faithfully attended and served in many roles at his church which began as Eastwood Baptist before becoming Hope Baptist. He was also dedicated to serving with the South Carolina Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association.

George E. Johnson, Sr. leaves behind an enduring legacy of integrity, selflessness, caring and love. He is predeceased in death by his parents, brothers James Howard Johnson, William "Billy" Johnson, and Calvin Johnson; sister Anna Ruth Speed; son George E. Johnson, Jr.; and daughter Mary Margaret Winston.

He is survived by his wife Mary Kyle Johnson; daughters Rene Simon, Helena Johnson, Sandra Johnson; son Ronald (Nadine) Johnson: granddaughters Nicole (Al) Rankin, Ashley (Landon) Monroe, Mary Elizabeth Johnson, Rachel (Will)Winston McInnis, and; grandsons Ernest Miles Simon and Edward "Mac" Johnson; great grandsons Xavier Comer and Theophilus Davis, III; great

granddaughters Alana Davis, Brooklyn Rankin, and London Monroe; brothers, Reverend Robert (Elaine) Johnson and Rudolph Johnson and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and cherished friends.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC **18**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Homegoing Celebration

DEC **19**. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Hope Baptist Church
2117 Clemson Road
Columbia, SC 29229

Interment

DEC **23**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Rd
Columbia, SC 29229-8307
(803) 699-2246

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.* ”



Tammy Harrison Edwards and Family - December 21, 2024 at 04:12 PM

ES

“ *My grandfather was a one of a kind type of guy I got so many memories in my head it's hard to express how much he means n meant to our family life is going to be so hard to continue without his presents to guide his family* ”

Earnest Simon - December 18, 2024 at 07:06 PM

AO

“ *Sandra, Sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. He sounds like an amazing person. My thoughts are with you and your mom and family at this time.* ”
Alice Odell

Alice Odell - December 18, 2024 at 12:37 PM

FM

“ *From Rachel Winston McInnis purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of SFC (Ret.) George Edward Johnson Sr..* ”



From Rachel Winston McInnis - December 17, 2024 at 11:20 PM

FM

“ From Rachel Winston McInnis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of SFC (Ret.) George Edward Johnson Sr..

From Rachel Winston McInnis - December 17, 2024 at 11:20 PM

GF

“ Uncle George will truly be missed, take your rest, we love you



Gwendolyn Johnson and Family - December 17, 2024 at 10:48 PM

MA

“ Martella A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of SFC (Ret.) George Edward Johnson Sr..

Martella A. - December 17, 2024 at 06:01 PM

KM

“ Kathryn morganelli purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of SFC (Ret.) George Edward Johnson Sr..



Kathryn morganelli - December 17, 2024 at 05:39 PM

KM

“ Kathryn morganelli planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of SFC (Ret.) George Edward Johnson Sr..

Kathryn morganelli - December 17, 2024 at 05:39 PM

LM

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Mary, Rene', Sandra, Helena and Ronald. Your blessing was having this awesome gentleman as husband and father. No one will ever replace him in the lives of everyone that knew him. He was one of a kind. Will miss him tremendously. Our loss is Heaven's gain. Love ❤️
Lila



Lila Millard-McHenry - December 17, 2024 at 02:36 PM

TF

“ Our deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.



Tammy Harrison Edwards and Family - December 17, 2024 at 07:09 AM