



Viola Odell Johnson

June 12, 1948 - January 28, 2021

On Thursday, January 28, 2021 in the early morning, our heavenly Father made a declaration: My beloved daughter, Viola Odell Johnson is coming home!

Viola Odell Johnson was born on June 12, 1948 in Sumter, South Carolina, to loving parents, Doctor and Doretha Gaymon Johnson. She was their third born and added joy to their young family. Vie, as we fondly called her, was always a curious child and full of life. She loved the adventure of southern living, playing outside and getting into mischief with her siblings. Vie was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at a young age; becoming a lifelong member of Mt. Pleasant R.M.U.E. Church, Pinewood, S.C.

Viola attended Sumter County School District #17 schools. During her school years, she was bright and eager to learn. She was known for her beautiful penmanship and high quality work. Her teachers loved her and often considered her as, "the teacher's pet". Vie loved to talk and had an abundance of friends. There was something within Vie (her) that was just endearing. During her teen years, she was active in the church, serving as a Sunday School Teacher. In 1966, Vie graduated from Lincoln High School. She became the first of her family to attend college. Viola matriculated to Allen University, Columbia, South Carolina and earned her Bachelor of Science

degree in Elementary Education in 1970.

Upon graduation, she made her home in Columbia, where she enjoyed life. Vie had many talents. She could figure out and teach herself to do just about anything. For the next 17 years, Viola pursued various paths, which were all uniquely Vie. She was an avid reader, movie buff, and a crossword puzzle genius. Vie loved her family and knew her parents and siblings were always there for her.

In February 1987, Viola celebrated the happiest day of her life with the birth of her son, Dexter Rendell Johnson. Having the desire to be a loving mother, she returned to her family home in Sumter. She adored Dexter. He was her pride and joy. He would follow her every step. She made sure Dexter had all the necessities of life and learned to love The Lord. Vie trusted God to take care of Dexter. She always had a spark in her eyes when she spoke of “her son”.

During the past 15 years, Viola was faced with many health challenges, but she never let them get her down. She kept on smiling and “talking trash”. Later in life, she found true love with Gerald, who would be with her during her most difficult days. Vie succumbed to a battle that required all of her strength on January 15, 2021. For the next fourteen days, she fought as hard and long as she could. On January 28th, she went home to her Heavenly Father. She loved life to the fullest. God blessed Vie with His favor and faithfulness until the very end.

She is preceded in death by her parents Doctor and Doretha Johnson, paternal grandparents Charles and Estell Johnson, and maternal grandparents Rufus Dray Gaymon and Viola Gaymon Boyd.

Viola leaves to cherish beautiful memories to her beloved son, Dexter R. Johnson, Los Angeles, CA; her loving companion, Fitzgerald Conyers, Sumter, SC, her siblings, Roosevelt Moore (Emma Jean) Philadelphia, PA,

Barbara Bennett, Haymarket, VA; Delores Wingo, Wyncote, PA; Beverly (Dr. Robert) Williams, Smithville, NJ; Doretha "Pat" (Albert) Spells, Newport News, VA; Dr. Larry G. Johnson, Little Rock, AR; and Dr. Pamela (Willie) McFadden, Orange, CA; two aunts, Rosalie Johnson Floyd, Philadelphia, PA, and Clara Gaymon, Tallahassee, FL , and her lifelong friend, Anna Johnson Shirley, Sumter, SC. Vie's love of life will always be remembered by her 44 nieces and nephews; along with a host of cousins, and friends.

January 28, 2021

Vie,

Our family chain has been broken, and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again one day. We will always love you and miss you. Forever in our hearts.

Your loving Family

(Adapted from the poem The Broken Chain, Poet Unknown)

To access the livestream of the service, please go to Facebook.com, search for Palmer Memorial Chapel Inc, and "like" the page. The livestream video will begin at 11:00 am on the day of the service.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **12**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
304 South Main St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381

Tribute Wall



“ *Viola Odell Johnson*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Pam, Willie and family: Viola will surely be missed by all who knew and loved her. My sincerest condolences at this time of loss. May you find comfort and strength in knowing your loved one is resting in peace now . Praying God's peace will flood your soul. With deep sympathy and love, Your Sister in Christ and WOW Small Group member. Love you. 🌸🙏🏻🙏🏻*

Rita Lee - February 13, 2021 at 11:22 AM



“ *We, the Witherspoon children, of Monroe Street and next door neighbors to the Johnson Family are saddened to hear of Viola's passing. We share so many memories of our times together riding to Panola to "pick cotton" in your dad's cotton field, and when Nathaniel and Viola dared each other to jump off the top of the roof of the back porches, and playing softball in the yard behind our houses, and riding down highway 15 South as each family headed to different churches on Sunday morning. Your parents did very well by each of you. May God keep you in perfect peace during this time in your lives.
Mary W. Blanding*

Mary W. Blanding - February 13, 2021 at 09:39 AM

MB

“ *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you... Philippians 4:23. We fondly remember Vie and the entire Johnson family. We send loving thoughts and a fervent prayer for His peace to surround Dexter and all of you during this difficult time and in the days to come.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,
Mt. Pleasant RMUE Church Family
The Reverend Theola Parker
Pastor*

Mabel Brown - February 11, 2021 at 08:04 PM

DW

“ *Just learned the passing of Sister Johnson. Our sincere condolences to the entire Johnson family, especially my cousins, Doretha Johnson Spells & Albert. May all find solace and peace during these difficult moments and days ahead. May Love flow from one family member to another forever.*

*Sincerely,
Donald L Wright Family
Mauldin, SC*

Don Wright - February 11, 2021 at 04:55 PM

FF

“ *From Nannette and family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Viola Odell Johnson.*



From Nannette and family - February 11, 2021 at 02:40 PM

DJ

“ *My prayers go out to the Johnson family during your time of bereavement. May God comfort each of you.*

Doris Felder, SCSU, class of 1976

Doris E Johnson-Felder - February 11, 2021 at 09:10 AM

RC

“ *Forever in our thoughts.
Gone but never forgotten.
Thinking of you always.
You will be sorely missed.
May you rest in peace.
With love and fond memories.
In loving memory.*

Always in our hearts. Lincoln High School Class of 1966



Rose Colclough - February 09, 2021 at 08:42 PM

RS

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to Dexter and the entire Johnson family*

Rochelle Samuel-Wider - February 07, 2021 at 04:46 PM

TC

“ *Trustees of New Beech Grove Baptist Church purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Viola Odell Johnson.*



Trustees of New Beech Grove Baptist Church - February 07, 2021 at 11:41 AM

RT

“ *Special person to me and someone I will always cherish for her friendship and smile!!!*

Rev Leroy Thomas Sr.

Rev Leroy Thomas - February 06, 2021 at 04:35 PM

AG

“ *Adrian Builders Group purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Viola Odell Johnson.*



Adrian Builders Group - February 05, 2021 at 12:20 PM

PA

“ *Sending prayers to your family. May God continue to comfort you all.*

patrice - February 02, 2021 at 11:54 AM

DW

My condolences' to the family of Viola Odell Johnson. There is no sorrow on earth that heaven cannot heal. May God continue to comfort the family.

Dr. Darnelle Hasty Wilson - Neighborhood friend

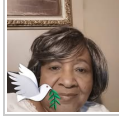
Dr. Darnelle Hasty Wilson - February 12, 2021 at 02:52 PM

AC

My prayers and deepest sympathy to the family of Viola Johnson. Doretha and I were classmates at Sumter High (1972) and SCSU (1976). I remembered Viola when her son Dexter was a student at Lemira Elementary. May she rest in peace.

Audrey Hannibal Covington

Audrey Covington - February 13, 2021 at 11:25 AM



I was late hearing of the passing of Vie, prayers and condolences goes to Johnson/ Gaymon families. I will always remember Vie coming to our house early on most Saturday while coming to help her father on the farm. Vie would remind me that she had my mothers name Odell (who was her mother's first cousin). May the family be comforted by God during this trying time. From Loretta Thompson-Washington

Loretta Washington - February 16, 2021 at 05:59 AM