

## *Words of Comfort*

Thank you to Pastor Stephen Johnson and the Upper Zion Baptist Church for allowing us this opportunity to bring our mother back to her beginnings. We are extremely grateful to those who were a part of Devora Johnson's life. All the love and support during this difficult time is greatly appreciated. The prayers, food, flowers, cards, donations, texts, and words of encouragement are all appreciated. We would like to express our special thanks to the relief sitters, Fannie Anderson and Lana Alexander or Waco, Texas, who helped take good care of our mother, just as we did. Please keep our family in your prayers, as we will yours. May God bless and keep you.

THE JOHNSON FAMILY

## *Pallbearers*

Marion Humphrey | David Swinson III  
Ricky Raphael | Christopher Lewis  
James "Honey Bee" Willis | Clayton Wilson

## *Final Resting Place*

Falls County Cemetery

Arrangements especially for the  
Johnson family by

*Robertson Funeral & Cremation*  
338 Commerce Street | Marlin, Texas 76661  
[www.robertsonfh.com](http://www.robertsonfh.com)

— IN LOVING MEMORY —

# *Devora Lee Bradley Johnson*

*Sunrise*  
October 14, 1929

*Sunset*  
April 7, 2020



## *Funeral Services*

Monday, April 13, 2020 | 12:00 p.m.  
UPPER ZION BAPTIST CHURCH  
120 County Road 2863 | Marlin, Texas  
Rev. Stephen Johnson, Pastor

## *Membership Church*

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
385 Business State Highway 6 | Marlin, Texas  
Moderator Wm. Johnson, Jr. – Pastor (Husband)  
Minister Deborah F. Raphael – Officiant (Daughter)



# Remembering Devora...

Early Tuesday morning, April 7, 2020, Devora Lee Bradley Johnson transitioned from her earthly home to her heavenly home and will now watch sunrise from heaven. Devora was born October 14, 1929, to the parentage of David Julius Bradley and Deloris Rhône Bradley. Devora was the oldest of 14 children.

Devora married Rev. William Johnson, Jr., on September 6, 1952. They were married 67 years. To their union, four daughters were born: Deborah, Ouida "Gail," Maurette, and Sherri.

Devora is also known as "Vora" by her siblings, "Mom or Mama" by her daughters, and "Meme" by her sons-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Other names for her include: "Cutton Devora" by cousins, "Sis. Johnson," "First Lady Johnson," or "Mother of the Church" by church members, "Mrs. Devora" by former coworkers, the lady who gives ice cream money on birthdays, and last, but not least, "A Child of God" by all who truly knew her.

Devora was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Howard Bradley, Edward Bradley and John "Dickie" Bradley; and three sisters, Vera Bradley-Randolph, Ella Mae Bradley and Emmarine Bradley-Ware.

Devora leaves to cherish her memory: her husband; daughters, Deborah Raphael of Marlin, Ouida "Gail" Garrett (Lonnie) of Waco, Maurette Lewis (Charles) of Desoto, and Sherri Swinson (David) of Waco; nine grandchildren, TaNunya (William "Dejuan"), Christie (Reginald), Ricky, Staci (Corey), Christopher (Kahaya), Gaylon (Crystal), Lana (Marvin), Eisha (Kevon), and Charlesetta; 23 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; three brothers, Elgin "Maurice" and Bertram "Ted" Bradley of Sacramento, CA, and David Earl Bradley of Los Angeles, CA; four sisters, Erma Louise Bradley, Phyllis Bradley-Williams (John), Evelyn Marie Bradley-Owens (L.P.), and Diane Bradley-Swift Meza (Jesus); brother-in-law, Rev. Charlie T. Johnson of Oakland, CA; and sister-in-law, Archie Mae Smith of Marlin. Devora also leaves to cherish her memory a host of relatives and friends. Recognitions to: Greg Bradley and Byron Randolph (nephews) and Hampton McDaniel (cousin), all from Sacramento, CA, and Kaeron "Kay" Masters (niece) of Fort Worth, who has traveled the last several years (along with all of Devora's siblings) to visit Devora for her birthday week.

## EDUCATION

Devora Lee Bradley-Johnson is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School in Marlin and Hammond Memorial Institute of Practical Nursing in Bryan. She received her vocational nurse license on July 29, 1961.

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

Sis. Devora gave her life to Christ and was baptized around the age of 12. She was a faithful member of Upper Zion Baptist Church for many years. She moved her membership to Zion Hill Baptist Church in 1993 when the church became a full-time, every-Sunday church to serve alongside her husband, Pastor William

She was a gentle and kind soul, a role model to all, pure gold. There is a void in my heart and a void in the Johnson family that won't ever be filled, but I rejoice in knowing that God's plan for Meme was fulfilled. I love you and I will miss you always.

RICKY RAPHAEL

You are our family's greatest treasure, truly one-of-a-kind, one of my most powerful inspirations and role models. I love you forever. I will miss you until I can be with u again.

STACI AND COREY

Meme, you meant so much to us and to so many people. You had a peaceful and encouraging presence wherever you were. No matter what was going on or how you felt, you were always thankful and spoke blessings. We've never heard you complain. You have been such a great inspiration in our lives. You have planted so many fruitful seeds in our lives that will forever continue to grow, and we appreciate you for that. We love you so much and will miss your beautiful face!

CHRISTOPHER "SHUN" AND KAHAYA

Meme we love you and miss you. Thank you for the love and kindness that you've shown us. Thank you for being that grandmother that always prayed and had faith in God. Although we are far apart you will always be in my heart. I love you, Meme.

GAYLON AND CRYSTAL

Meme,  
I loved you at first sight! As you loved me the same! Your warm smile and sweet voice I will never forget! You're forever loved!

LANA AND MARVIN

An amazing matriarch and the rarest of gems. The purest example of loving with no limits and embracing with no hesitation. You will truly be missed.

EISHA AND KEVON

Mrs. Johnson to you, but Meme to us, was one of the greatest people that ever lived. She was a kindhearted and generous woman who always made sure everyone was doing well in life. No matter what Meme did in life, she always put God and Family first. Everyone that Meme has crossed paths with she has blessed and loved them; and although she is gone physically, she is still here in memory.

CHARLIE



## *Tributes to Our "Meme"*

Meme, I want to thank you for the example you've set for me as a woman of encouragement. One thing I've always admired about you was your unconditional love for ALL people. Even as a Pastor's wife, a church 1st lady, and a Licensed Vocational Nurse, you always took the time to show others godly love through your beautiful smile, a warm hug, and sweet words of encouragement. I try to exemplify that in my own life daily. Thank you, Meme! I love you forever and you will always be in my heart.

TANUNYA Y. ADAMSON  
(Your oldest granddaughter)

Meme, I have never known this earthly life without you. From my very first memory, you were there for me. God used you to teach me so many valuable life lessons. You taught me how to love God and how to love others. You never forced me to. You made me WANT to. You taught me the value of family and of serving others. You taught me that pretty is as pretty does. In other words, outside appearance is nothing if your inside is ugly. You taught me to laugh deeply and freely (I remember all our Saturday nights watching Amen and 227 back in the day). You taught me how to listen and to try to understand things through the eyes of other people. You taught me generosity, support, and unconditional love. You were always the person that I never wanted to hurt or disappoint. I always wanted to make you proud and you never failed to make me feel like I did just that. From hanging my first little pictures from Ms. Lucille's center on the refrigerator to supporting whatever else I was involved with over the years, you always made a big deal over whatever I did and you always made me feel that I could do anything that I put my mind to. Thank you. From just watching you, I often marveled at how God could fit so much of Himself into such a tiny and cute little package named Meme. I still marvel, and always will, at the goodness of God because He gave us you and because He gave His Son, we WILL meet again. Loving you forever and then some,

YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER, CHRISTIE

Meme, Truly you were a God sent, handpicked, and well-chosen vessel. You truly represented all the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for always showing me love in every way. You truly were and are God's personal gift to humanity. I believe that the Lord will indeed say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." I love you, Meme.

APOSTLE REGINALD

In Meme, God gained one of the sweetest angels to ever set foot in Heaven.

Johnson, Jr. Rev. Johnson was first called as a pastor of a church in April of 1954, which means Sis. Devora has been a First Lady for 65 years. She was not a First Lady content to sit back and let others do the work. Sis. Devora Bradley Johnson has worked timelessly over the years as Vice President of mission auxiliary, mission president, a Sunday school teacher, Director of youth department at Upper Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Treasurer of ministers wives of the Falls County District Association, Youth Director of the Sunday school and BTU Congress, member of intercessors of prayer warriors, sponsored youth to attend summer camp through the Falls County Cooperative Extension Program, and served as chairperson on a number of other programs and committees. Other community clubs/organizations include: Marlin Chamber of Commerce, BTW Alumni Association, Ready to Help Club, NAACP, and Order of Eastern Star Peace Chapter #232.

Sis. Devora once said, "He (referring to her husband, Pastor Johnson) works on the soul, and I work on the body. "

Sis. Devora is known by many for providing kind, comforting words to everyone she encounters. She was quoted as saying, "My thank you, get well and congratulation cards cost as much as my groceries do every week." All cards were handwritten by her to make others feel special and loved. She said, "I love doing it because it makes them feel better."

### EMPLOYMENT

On March 1, 1960, Devora was hired as a license vocational nurse with Torbett Hutchins-Smith Memorial Hospital, now renamed Falls Community Hospital and Clinic. Devora was inspired at an early age by "playing-nurse" for her younger siblings. Devora said, "I just love to do things for people and I always have."

At the Marlin Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award Ceremony in 2008, the late Willis Reese, who was administrator of the Falls Community Hospital and Clinic from 1996 to 2017, presented Devora with the Citizen of the Year award, which she had no idea that she was receiving. During the presentation, Mr. Reese said, "I would like to be more like her myself. If everyone was like Mrs. Devora, we wouldn't have any problems in the world today."

Mr. Reese shared comments from Mrs. Devora's initial interview file notations: Appears promptly for appointments, very neat in appearance, courteous and polite, a very confident adult. Mr. Reese said, "And that's still her standards today. She is an exceptional nurse providing excellent care to all her patients. She works extremely well with her coworkers and is always on time. In 12 years, I have never known or have I heard a complaint about Mrs. Devora...NEVER, always compliments!"

She has said on many occasions, "I can retire at any time, but nursing is my ministry. I love people and I love ministering to them. The more I give, the more God blesses me to give to my family and others."

Mrs. Devora retired on February 1, 2011, at the age of 80. She was employed as an L.V.N. for 50 years and 11 months. When she retired, she was working three 12-hour shifts a week.



# Order of Service

SEATING ARRANGED BY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

## SONGS OF PRAISE

—Grandchildren—

Tanunyo Adamson | D'juan Adamson | Gaylon Garrett

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament – Apostle Reginald Carson

New Testament – Bishop Fred Ormsby

## PRAYER

Bishop Lonnie D. Garrett (Son-In-Law)

## SOLO

Dr. Christie Carson (Granddaughter)

## RESOLUTION

Zion Hill Baptist Church

Upper Zion Baptist Church & Others

## SPECIAL REMARKS

Minister Alfornette Timms | Rev. Vincent Hartsfield

## SOLO

“My Soul Is Anchored In The Lord”

Rev. Stephen Johnson

## EULOGY

Moderator William Johnson, Jr.

(Pastor & Husband)

## GLIMPSE ‘TIL GLORY

Robertson Funeral Home



—HER—  
*Children (Grand)*  
—SHALL—  
*Rise Up*  
—AND CALL HER—  
*Blessed*

PROVERBS 31:28