



Tom Johnson, Jr

May 9, 1925 - November 1, 2025

****Obituary for Tom Johnson Jr.****

****May 9, 1925 – November 1, 2025****

Tom Johnson Jr. was born on May 9, 1925, in Boligee, Alabama. He was the cherished son of Tom Johnson Sr. and Nancy Carter Johnson and was one of nine children. His siblings were Callie Mae, Ennis, Louise, Emanuel, Garfield, Robert, Carrie, and Ivory.

From the earliest days of his life, Tom stood apart. Though he was the second born, it was clear that he would become a central figure in the family's history. Despite his youth, Tom's strength of character, sense of purpose, and work ethic shone brightly.

The Johnson family lived as sharecroppers on Mr. Dearman's farm in Eutaw, Alabama. It was here that Tom's early responsibilities took root.

Tom developed a love for cooking at an early age, inspired by long hours in the kitchen beside his mother. That love would become the foundation for an extraordinary lifelong career. As a teenager, he began working at a small eatery in Eutaw called the Snack Shack with his brother Emanuel.

At just 16 years old, Tom made a bold decision that would change the course of his life. He left home and headed to Columbus, Georgia, in search of work and opportunity. He found his opportunity at S&S Cafeteria. Tom rose to the position of head chef, commanding kitchens with precision, pride, and excellence. The Smith and Smith Brothers, owners of

S&S Cafeteria, entrusted him with a remarkable responsibility: to open and lead new locations in Macon, Georgia; Greenville, South Carolina; and Atlanta, Georgia. For more than 60 years, Tom remained a cornerstone of the S&S family, shaping the culinary experience for generations of diners and training countless staff with dignity and discipline.

In Tom's personal life, he was first united in marriage to Charlie Clara Hardwick, with whom he had six children Donald, Burnette, Tom III, Synthia, Joan and Sonja Johnson.

Later, he was blessed to find love again with Doretha Coppock, and together they nurtured a blended and loving family.

He was preceded in death by his children Donald Johnson, Burnette Jones, his wife Doretha Johnson and all his siblings. He is survived by one son Tom Johnson III Atlanta, Ga, three daughters Synthia Jenkins (Dwayne) Ellenwood, Ga, Joan Dalton Columbus, Ga, and Sonja Lewis Atlanta, Ga, sisters-in-law Doris Coppock Hunter Fort Lauderdale, Fl, Carrie Coppock Savannah, Ga, a brother-in-law Leonard Holly Denver, Co as well as a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family would like to give special thanks to his care givers Deborah Nelson, Carriage Crossing Assistant Living, and Precious Hospice.

Family, friends, and those whose lives were touched by Tom are invited to

celebrate his life and legacy at a Memorial Service on Saturday, November 15th, 2025, at Rainbow Park Baptist Church 2941 Columbia Drive, Decatur, Georgia 30034, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Following the service, a repast will be held from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm at the same location, where guests can gather to share stories and fond memories of Tom.

The family expresses heartfelt gratitude to all who supported and cared for Tom throughout his life.

Tom's legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew him. His life was a blessing, and his memory will be cherished forever.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 15. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034

Repast

NOV 15. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034

Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Tom Johnson, Jr*



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - November 12, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ *Correction: May God grant you peace and comfort.*

Margaret Lee Ingersoll - January 05 at 09:00 PM



“ *I extend my deepest condolences to the family. May God grant you peace and comfort. Sending prayers and love!*

Margaret Lee Ingersoll

Margaret Lee Ingersoll - January 05 at 08:58 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Deborah Nelson - November 14, 2025 at 11:06 PM

DN

“ Remember the moment that I came to stay, you didn't want me there because I wasn't your wife, the space that she filled no one could replace. You took one look at me and hung your head low and say she can go!!! I stayed I knew your heart was broken. It was my mission to put a smile on your face and as the days turned to weeks in the morning. Became talkshow marathons and the evenings became fish fry's , he told me you can cook, but not as good as my wife, but I couldn't tell because you ate everything that I cook for him! those weeks became months and it was time for me to go, and and that she can go!!! turned into where she at? I'll always cherish the time that I spent with you Mr. Tom and I know that you're resting in peace right now. My condolences to the family. I love you all ❤️



Deborah Nelson - November 14, 2025 at 11:03 PM

SJ

“ Tom Sr, you were truly a blessing in my life. Reaching 100 years was more than a milestone—it was a testament to your strength, your faith, and the love you carried for all of us. I’m so grateful I got to be part of your journey.

I’ll always remember the way you spoke with such calm wisdom, the little jokes you’d slip in, and the way your presence made everything feel steady. You had a way of teaching without lecturing, loving without saying many words, and guiding us simply by being who you were.

Thank you for every story, every smile, every moment we shared. You lived with purpose, with grace, and with a quiet strength that I admired more than you ever knew.

Uncle, my heart is heavy, but it’s also full—full of memories, full of gratitude, and full of love for you. Rest peacefully now. Your work here is done, and your legacy lives in all of us who were blessed to call you family.

I will miss you deeply, and I will carry you with me always.



Selena Johnson - November 14, 2025 at 04:07 PM

NJ

“ NANCY Johnson I am 74yo now residing in Columbus, Georgia. I give my love, respect and condolences to the Johnson family, our family who lost a great man a man who shared his love, compassion kindness with all. I will miss you and your spirit always 🕊️ I love you Uncle Tom.



Nancy Dean Johnson - November 13, 2025 at 06:04 PM

NP

I am Nancy Dean Johnson Poole the fourth child of Emanuel and Mary Johnson born in Columbus, Ga. I have three sons, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. We send our love, prayers and condolences to my Uncle's family. I will miss you Uncle Tom may your soul rest in peace. 🕊️ Love the Johnson and Poole family. ❤️ 🙏

Nancy Johnson Poole - November 15, 2025 at 11:18 PM



“ Out of all of my great uncles Uncle Tom knew who I was a mile a way! Every time he came to Eutaw, he would visit his brother Ennis Sr., who preceded him in death in 2006. Condolences to Uncle Tom's family! Rest Easy Uncle Tom 🌹 🕊️



Bridget Bright - November 12, 2025 at 08:58 PM