



Major Willis E Johnson

August 3, 1940 - June 26, 2025

Major Willis E. Johnson was born in Demopolis, Alabama on August 3, 1940, to parents, Malinda Jones Johnson and Roosevelt Johnson. He transitioned from this life after a brief illness on June 26, 2025.

Willis attended Marengo County Training School in Thomaston, Alabama where he received his High School Diploma in 1957. He went on to Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University, and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1962. Upon graduation, Willis was commissioned in the United States Army, where he served as an Airborne Paratrooper. After twenty-three years of dedicated service, Willis retired as a Major and upon his release, joined the Active Reserve.

While at Tuskegee Institute, Willis met the love of his life, Sarah Mattie Pearl Daniel. They were married on June 23, 1963, at Flint Ridge Baptist Church in Bowden, GA. After marriage, the couple settled in Manhattan, New York. To this union, two sons were born, Ronald Keith Johnson and Michael Kenneth Johnson.

In addition to his military service, Willis joined the New York Department of Social Services in the Office of Children and Family Services in 1965. During his service, he held many positions, including Case Worker and Supervisor of Case Managers. He retired as a Liaison and Adjustment Supervisor in Child

Welfare on November 30, 1995, after thirty years of service.

Willis was also a member of Ethel Lodge #588 of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Alabama (Master Mason). He was also a strategic boxer and an avid chess player, teaching both his children and grandchild (Christian) how to play.

Willis leaves to cherish his memory, his beloved and devoted wife Dr. Sarah Mattie Pearl Johnson, sons Ronald (Lena), Michael, grandsons Ronald Jr., Malcolm and was proceeded in death by grandson Christian.

Willis is also survived by two sisters, Frances Pryor, Dianne (Joe) Hill and one brother, Bruce Essex, and a host of nephews, cousins and friends. He was proceeded in death by brother Thomas (Hanna) Killings.

Cemetery Details

Georgia National Cemetery

2025 Mount Carmel Church Lane
Canton, GA 30114-7670
<http://www.georgianationalcemetery.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Antioch AME Church
765 S Hairston Rd
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
(404) 299-3388

Celebration of Life

JUL 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Antioch AME Church
765 S Hairston Rd
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
(404) 299-3388

Burial w/ Military Honors

JUL 11 (ET)

Georgia National Cemetery
1080 Scott Hudgens Dr
Canton, GA 30114

Tribute Wall

MW

“ *Michael, I am sending my heartfelt condolences to you and your family regarding the loss of your father. May your lifetime of love and good memories sustain you during this difficult time.*

With lots of love,

Michelle Johnson White - July 07, 2025 at 12:58 AM

CB

“ *Calvin B. purchased the White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Major Willis E Johnson.*



Calvin B. - July 03, 2025 at 04:26 PM

CB

“ *Calvin B. purchased the White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Major Willis E Johnson.*



Calvin B. - July 03, 2025 at 04:24 PM