



Celebrating the Life of

Melbert Olds Johnson



Sunrise:
July 28, 1937

Sunset:
April 21, 2025



Thursday, May 8, 2025

Viewing: 10:00 a.m. | Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
5055 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746
Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor



Obituary

Melbert Olds Johnson, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and faithful servant of God was born on July 28, 1937 in Lillington, North Carolina, to the late Chester and Varie Lee McLean. Melbert was an only child raised on a farm by her maternal grandparents and surrounded by devoted aunts and protective uncles who became her extended family.

Melbert's early education began in a humble one-room schoolhouse, and she later earned her General Education Development diploma through District of Columbia Public Schools. She was nurtured in faith at Cedar Grove African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where her grandfather served as pastor. From an early age, she dedicated her life to Jesus Christ, a devotion that remained steadfast throughout her journey.

She later moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where she met and married Julius Butler Olds, and together they were blessed with six children. After eleven years in Norfolk, Melbert relocated to Washington, D.C., where she married William F. Johnson and welcomed two more children into her family.

Melbert found purpose in her work, serving as assistant manager and later manager at the American Rescue Workers Thrift Store. She took great pride in her store, providing clothing and shoes to individuals reentering society and helping them prepare for job interviews. Her commitment to helping others was unmatched, and her store became a beacon of hope for many.

Melbert's love for children led her to become a licensed home daycare owner, governed by the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education. She earned the highest Child Development Credential and operated Melbert Johnson Family Daycare with excellence, receiving accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care. For over fifty years, she poured her heart into shaping young lives, earning recognition for her dedication and commitment.

A devoted member of Melwood Church of the Nazarene, Melbert served as a passionate Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher, church treasurer, and choir member. She loved to sing and participate in holiday cantatas, leaving lasting impressions through her faith and generosity. Her children remember her steadfast morning prayers, where she stood before her large window, hands lifted in devotion—an enduring testament to her unwavering belief in her faith.

In 2022, Melbert joined From the Heart Church Ministries, where she experienced profound spiritual growth. Known for her wisdom and humor, she often imparted life lessons to her children, reminding them that “a wise person will change, but a fool will never change.” She also delighted many with her southern desserts, her old-fashioned bread pudding, sweet potato pies, and pecan pies gracing countless potlucks and gatherings.

Melbert will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. She leaves behind her cherished daughters: Sharon (Dewey) Watkins, Dawn (Stephen) Reney, and Wendy (Michael) Zuber, stepson, Kenneth Johnson; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family, and friends.

Melbert was preceded in death by her husband, William F. Johnson; mother, Varie Lee Pritchard; sons: Larry Olds, James Olds, Julius Olds, and LeVerne Olds; daughter, Deborah Olds-Shell; son-in-law, Joe Shell; granddaughter, Tamika Olds; and stepson, Richard Johnson.

Melbert's life was a testament to faith, love, and service, and her legacy will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know her.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 121
New Testament: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Ms. Christal Long

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Mr. Eldrick and Mrs. Tammie Creamer, Daycare Parents
Ms. Sandra Geier - Nurse, Fenwick Landing Adult Day Center
Ms. Vivian Smith, OSSE Monitoring Department
Mr. Dewey Watkins III, Son-In-Law

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation Ms. Christal Long

Message of Hope Pastor Clarissa Cook
From the Heart Church Ministries of Cincinnati

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment
Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22211
The Date is Forthcoming



Family Sentiments



To Our Dear Mother,

*It is so hard to write these words to you,
Because it is our last goodbye to you here on earth
But the Holy Spirit comforts us in what to do.*

*We only had one mother
Patient, Kind and true;
No other person in all the world
Will be the same as you*

*As we look at your picture
Sweet memories, we recall
Of a face so full of sunshine,
And a smile for one and all.*

*We will miss you dearly
But we know where you are
Praising your Heavenly Father
We understand that clearly*

*Love Always,
Your Daughters, Sharon, Dawn and Wendy*



Family Sentiments

Grandma...

*I thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday,
And the days before that too.*

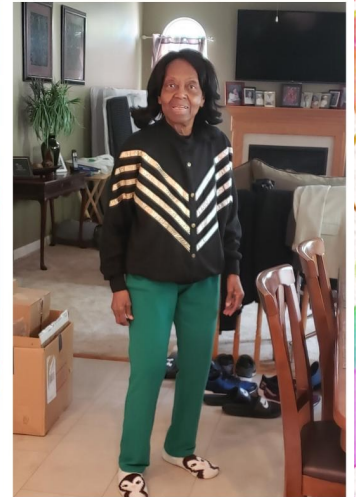
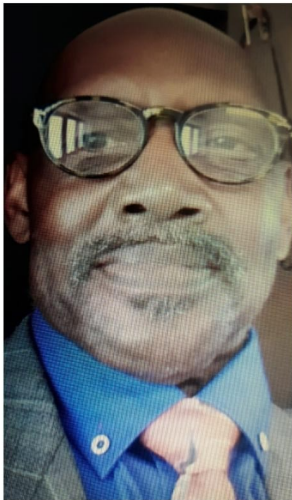
*I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name.
All I have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is my keepsake,
With which I'll never part.
God has you in His keeping,
I have you in my heart.*

*We will miss you!
Love, Your Grandchildren*







Congregational Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged: Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness: Take it to the Lord in Prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.*

Amen

Acknowledgements

*The family of Melbert Johnson acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. May God richly bless you.
We love you all.*

A special thank you to the Adult Daycare at Fenwick Landing Senior Care Community in Waldorf, Maryland.

Pallbearers & Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Services Entrusted to:

*Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746*