



Evelyn Loretta (Wilson) Johnson

October 30, 1945 - March 30, 2022

UTICA - Evelyn Loretta (Wilson) Johnson, age 76, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 with those she loved most in her heart. Born in Rome on October 30, 1945, Evelyn was the daughter of the late Effie Dora (Register-Garrard) Wilson. A graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1964, Loretta continued her education at MVCC. She was blessed to be brought up in a home abound with reading material, an environment that fostered her own style of learning. She read countless books and had access to “old school” volumes of encyclopedias, an achievement that yielded her a wealth of information and an enduring pursuit of knowledge that endured throughout her life. In 1961, she wed Gordon Johnson and although they parted in marriage, they maintained a respectable friendship prior to his passing in 1999. From that union, Patrick Lamont Johnson and Gordon Jeffrey Johnson were born. Loretta enjoyed a vivacious, diverse working life. It is believed that one of Loretta's first professional positions out of high school was at Marine Midland Bank. From there, she then went on to serve as executive secretary at the Cosmopolitan Center, and in time, a new door opened and she began her occupation as an operator with the New York Telephone Company. In her next career move, it is believed that Loretta Johnson may have been the first Black female radio announcer on our local airwaves when she accepted a position at WIBX radio station as a newscaster and talk show host interviewing persons of various walks of life - from the local business owner, to leaders in the community, to area politicians. Her talents in

presenting exacting information on air was an asset appreciated by local community and civic leaders. Her final occupational venture was working for the highly recognized and respected pollster, John Zogby. Even in her retirement, Loretta remained very active. She sat on the Board of For The Good, Inc., and was a writer for the Phoenix Newspaper. She loved to engage in thoughtful, intellectual conversations, and if you gave her your ear, she would certainly bend it. She was generous of her time with folks from all walks of life; her animated, adroit conversation was entertaining and emanated from her own open minded soul.

As a mom, Loretta insisted that her sons and their friends follow the etiquette of proper English and she was not shy about the need for them to be respectful, as her home was a community for her son's friends. Structure in her home was important, a proper dress code was expected, and she was always conscious of their cleanliness and the fact that things needs to be ironed! Loretta always had a meal on the dinner table that was well thought out and all of these accomplishments were done as a single mom. A multitude of people could testify to her values which were in the forefront of her persona and were taught with the expectation of being life's lessons. The holidays were celebrated in good fashion, and she kept in mind all the birthdays of her loved ones. She enjoyed solving crossword puzzles, and voraciously reading a variety of books, beyond the interest of most people. She was well-versed and in-tune with politics and world news, up to and including the events of these days. She always welcomed and lived among refugees who made Utica their home.

Loretta was an active lifetime member of St Paul's Baptist Church and for a time, prepared the weekly bulletin. She was a God-fearing woman and attended church regularly since childhood. In her curiosity, she also explored other churches, namely, The Seventh Day Adventist. Through her confirmed faith, Loretta found many special friends, especially Daisey Brown, Rachel Hamlett, Sheila Jones, Arlene, and Geraldine Simpson, Evelyn Louise Clark, and Thelma Porter.

Loretta was enormously proud of her boys' accomplishments and was so pleased to be their mom. Her children learned so much from the litany of values and life lessons she taught them. Her lifetime of enriching interpersonal connections with everyone she knew, worked with, and loved, will long be remembered as "Loretta's legacy".

Loretta is survived by her loving sons and daughter-in-law, Patrick Lamont Johnson, and Gordon Jeffery and Teri (Joyner) Johnson; her grandchildren, Corey Clark who she adored, and Ryan Johnson who in more recent years assisted and affectionately attended to his grandmother's needs; her brother, Theodore Wilson; and sister, Ernestine Wilson. She was preceded by her brother, Ralph Wilson; and sisters, Beulah White, Mildred Harris, Ruby Lois Holloway, Dorothy Betton, and Mabel Wilson. She also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. She also had an intimate relationship with members of the Johnson family. She was graced with an abundance of faithful friendships throughout her life.

The family would like to acknowledge the care and service provided to Loretta by the staff of the Colonial Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

Callers may pay their respects to Loretta's family on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at St. Paul's Baptist Church, 219 Leah St., from 11:00-1:00. Loretta's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will be held at 1:15 pm at the church upon the conclusion of visitation.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 9. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church
219 Leah Street
Utica, NY

Home Going Service

APR 9. 1:15 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church
219 Leah Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

LP

“ I am so sorry and heart broken that Mrs. Loretta Johnson is no longer with us. She was a great and close friend of my mother and father, and she has been in my life since I was a child. After my parents passed on, I would often turn to Loretta. Loretta never hesitated in giving of herself and her time. She was a great comfort. She will be missed, but I know she is in God's loving hands. Till I see you again, rest in peace.



Laura Phillips - May 25, 2022 at 08:50 PM

JB

“ My condolences to you both and your family. A mother is a special person. Your e-mail so indicated the wonderful mother you and Jeff were blessed with, and I am sure all to short a period of time. However, try not to let any one questionable feeling of the past interfere with good mourning of the present. If one judges a woman by her sons, your mom ranks right at the to of the list. May God Bless you, Jesus ensure you and the Holy Spirit comfort you.
Joe Bottini

Joseph P. Bottini - April 11, 2022 at 11:37 AM

IA

“ Sending sincere love comfort encouragement and comfort to the Johnson family. Mrs. Loretta was truly a beacon of love and light. I truly enjoyed the time we spent together. This is such a beautiful picture of her.

Iesha Alpheaus - April 10, 2022 at 07:09 PM

JD

“ Sincerest Condolences Patrick and Jeff.
Your Mom always extended us the warmest hospitality when
visiting.
Again, my Deepest Sympathies on your Loss.
Jody Dorsey

Jody Dorsey - April 09, 2022 at 01:51 PM

DC

“ Deborah Clarence(Johnson) lit a candle in
memory of Evelyn Loretta (Wilson) Johnson



Deborah Clarence(Johnson) - April 09, 2022 at 10:13 AM

CO

“ Pat & Jeff sorry I couldn't be there. Missing & thinking about God
Mom always.

Corrine - April 09, 2022 at 08:06 AM

DW

“ Sending prayers to the families of Loretta
Johnson. Beautiful lady. May she rest in
peace. 🙏🏻🙏🏻



Dawn Winston - April 08, 2022 at 08:52 PM

EM

“ So Sorry for your loss my condolences and 🙏 to you and the family



Ernesto montanez - April 07, 2022 at 11:25 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Evelyn Loretta (Wilson) Johnson.



April 06, 2022 at 08:28 PM

FC

“ I was surprised and saddened to learn of Loretta's passing. We had known each other since the 60's. She was a fun person who always had me laughing. I sure remember that beautiful radio voice that she had. I also remember her visits to my family's home and her "socializing" with my dad. They real enjoyed each other's company. I just recently saw her and we got all caught up, so learning of her passing did surprise me. My condolences to the whole family. May she rest in peace.

Frank Calaprice - April 05, 2022 at 09:13 PM

BF

“ *Brenda Fudge lit a candle in memory of Evelyn Loretta (Wilson) Johnson*



brenda fudge - April 05, 2022 at 07:47 AM

LM

“ *Will miss you Loretta,
Love Lois Murphy*



Lois Murphy - April 04, 2022 at 11:29 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelyn Loretta (Wilson) Johnson.*



April 04, 2022 at 11:23 PM

RP

“ *Patrick and Jeff and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your mother may she rest in peace. I use to work with her, we had some good times. God bless your family at this 🙏 difficult time*



Roseann Pearson-Simmons - April 03, 2022 at 07:31 PM

PC

We will miss her! She was a great supporter to our ministry. Prayers and sympathy to your family. Pastor Angela Carter BMD Ministries.

Pastor Angela Carter - April 07, 2022 at 10:43 PM

RC

Prayers for Your Family and Friends Pat and Jeff

Robin Carter - April 12, 2022 at 08:25 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Evelyn Loretta (Wilson) Johnson.*



April 03, 2022 at 05:42 PM

KJ

“ *I think of Loretta as my Sister-in-law forever. I had the pleasure to share of her Great Intelligence that I've always admired. Her love of knowledge was ingrained in my Nephews of which made her proud. So happy myself and the Family was able to reconnect with her just a short while ago. She will be Missed and Forever Loved. May she rest in Christ until she is called home. May God extend his loving arms to the immediate Family. Gone but not Forgotten. Sister-in-law Kathy Johnson*

Kathy Johnson - April 03, 2022 at 04:55 PM