

CELEBRATION OF OUR BELOVED



02/19/31

03/03/19

Wilma Johnson

SERVICE HELD
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019 AT 11:00AM
DOWNS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6026 IDAHO STREET - OAKLAND, CA

REV. DR. THEON JOHNSON III



Wilma Johnson

OBITUARY

Wilma Johnson was born in Batesville, Mississippi on February 19, 1931 to John Sr. and Cora Lee Figg Johnson. She was the fifth of nine children.

At an early age she was baptized at Macedonia Baptist Church in Batesville, Mississippi.

The family moved to California in 1941 and settled in the Central Valley. The family established membership at Second Baptist Church in Fresno, California and remains an important part of that community.

She graduated in 1947 from Edison High School in Fresno, California. She had the great distinction of being the first Black Valedictorian and the first female commencement speaker for Edison High School. She attended Fresno State University for two years and transferred to Stanford University School of Nursing where she completed her B.S. Degree in Nursing. She was the first Black to graduate in this program. She later moved to New York where she completed her Master's Degree in Public Health Nursing at Columbia University.

Wilma Johnson entered her professional nursing career in 1952 as a register nurse on the surgical floor of Stanford University. She also worked at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland. In 1955 she began her career with Alameda County as a staff Public Health Nurse. Over her 34 years of service she quickly moved into supervisory and leadership positions which involved her in the development of the Home Health Care program, and projects in geriatric multiphasic and screening, high risk prenatal follow-up, child health supervision and family planning. She served as Director of Public Health Nursing for Alameda County from 1977-1990.

Her social life included a close-knit group of young professional black women who organized in 1959 and called themselves Les Girls. Her friends always looked forward to the annual Christmas party held every year from 1959-1999. She was an international traveler and in retirement was a travel consultant.

She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Nu Omega chapter. She was a very active member of Alpha Nu Omega, serving as a delegate for many regional and national conferences and on several committees. Her favorite committee was the "Ready to Work Closet" where she volunteered many hours helping women learn to dress for success. She also enjoyed working on the Scholarship committee.

She was a long-standing member of Downs Memorial United Methodist Church. She was leader of the youth teen group in the 50's and served on the Scholarship committee and as Chair for years. When she retired and left the Bay Area to care for her mother in Fresno, California she reconnected with the family church, Second Baptist in Fresno. Upon her return to Oakland she reunited with Downs United Methodist and served on the Scholarship Ministry.

Wilma has been granted her angel wings by God and is now reunited with her family and friends.

Wilma Johnson was preceded in death by her parents John Johnson Sr. and Cora Lee Figg Johnson, her sister Berniece Maxwell, brothers Luther Johnson Sr., John Johnson Jr., Clarence Dale Johnson and Spencer Lee Johnson. She leaves to mourn and cherish her life, sister Anna Clara Helton, brothers, Paul Herbert Johnson (Loretta) and Gene Cornell Johnson (Wanda), Sister in Law Jeraldine Johnson, nieces Gail Johnson Murphy, Angela Johnson-Webster (Kyle), Donna Middleton, nephews, Luther Johnson Jr., Terrence Johnson (Lunell), Michael Johnson (Gloria), Tanya Johnson, Terry Williams (Andre), Paul Johnson Jr., Matthew Johnson (Stephanie), Alan Davis, Robin Davis and Johnny Maxwell. Great nieces Jahlilah Johnson, Christina Johnson, Dorian Murphy, Maya Williams, Vanessa Johnson (Juan Galvin), Great nephews, Todd Johnson, Troy Johnson (Karen), Kendall Murphy, Bradley Johnson, Michael Johnson Jr. (Rochelle), Corey Williams, Christopher Williams, Lamar Robertson and a host of friends and relatives.