

## The Family Tribute

**Rosalie Sharpe Johnson** was born on July 22, 1935, the fifth of seven children, to the late Rev. & Mrs. (Mary) Christopher C. Sharpe in Tarboro, NC. She was educated in the public school system of Tarboro, graduating from W.A. Pattillo High School in June 1953.

The day after graduating high school, she moved to New York to live with her older sister, Mary Bernice, with whom she was very close. She enjoyed her time while there and met many wonderful people and celebrities. She even sang with some of them. Lloyd Price was one singer she would often tell her family stories about. At one point she was even a hand model for hand creams, nail polish and the like. Soon after, she moved to Philadelphia, PA. and began her career at Bell Telephone. She was an avid supporter of her father, the late Rev. Christopher C. Sharpe, who accepted a call to pastor the Greater White Rock Baptist Church. When Rosalie was growing up, her dad traveled as an evangelist and when opportunities presented themselves, Rosalie would sing for her dad. Rosalie loved her dad and they had a very special bond. She later developed a similar bond with her big brother, Robert Sharpe. She would recall the gems her dad shared with her as a young child growing up, way into her senior years. She regularly shared those gems with her own children. Rosalie had a very strong and distinct alto voice and for many years she sang with The Gloria Gospel Singers. Her beautiful voice had a way of moving an audience to praise or tears just by sharing her gift of song, especially when she sang her signature song 'The King Is Coming.' Her voice will live on in the hearts and minds of many who had the opportunity to hear her sing.

While residing in Philadelphia, she met and married the late, James W. Johnson, a widower with a young son, James L. This blessed union yielded four more children; Christopher Keith (who preceded her in death), Melanie Pearl, Fitzgerald, and Lisa Bernice. Rosalie loved her children and she continued to speak very highly of her love for them even while she struggled with her own health condition.

In 1979, she began supporting her late nephew, Apostle Robert M. Taylor, Sr., in ministry when he began the Fellowship Tabernacle Church. She served in many capacities over the years. Two of the most memorable roles were church clerk and offering her supreme culinary skills in the kitchen by making her famous fried chicken. In 1987, she was blessed to be one of the choir members chosen to travel to Europe to perform in 'The Gospel at Colonus' with Morgan Freeman & Robert Earl Jones.

Mother Johnson, as she was affectionately called, was indeed a mother to many. She always had whatever anyone needed in her large purses and they came to her often for needles & thread, mints, lotion, tissues and change for the children to put in the offering. She was known for having many sons and daughters in the Tabernacle. Mother Johnson eventually migrated back to her home state of North Carolina. Upon her return, she continued to support the ministry of Fellowship Tabernacle Church, which had relocated to Statesville, NC. Rosalie was a praying woman. She was very encouraging with a strong love and faith in God. You knew when the spirit had touched her in service, by listening for the heel of her shoe tapping the floor.

On March 5, 2020 God in His infinite wisdom, gave Rosalie her wings. She is now resting and is in no more pain and singing in the heavenly choir. For that, we give God praise! Her cherished memories will reside most precious, with her children: James (Linda), Melanie (Thomas), Fitzgerald (Kendra), Lisa; her big brother, Robert Sharpe (Jessie), her sisters, Bessie Taylor and Gloria Booth, her special niece, Mary Taylor; her grandchildren: Tameka, Tiffany, Payton, Jordan, Erika, and Gerald; along with three special great-grandchildren, James, Orion and Lyanna, and a host of family and friends.

## The Celebration of Life for

# Rosalie Sharpe Johnson

Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Morningstar First Baptist Church

Hickory, North Carolina

Pastor David Roberts, Officiating

## The Family Visitation

11:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Processional ..... Ministers and Family  
Moments of Sharing: (Friends may visit with the family)

## The Order of Service

11:30 a.m.

The Musical Prelude: "The King Is Coming" ....Mother Rosalie Johnson  
and The Fellowship Tabernacle Choir

The Scripture

Old Testament: II Chronicles 7:7-14 ...Elder Elyada Walton, Godson

New Testament: Romans 8:1-28..... Elder Stacey Caison, Pastor

New Hope Fellowship Tabernacle

The Prayer of Comfort .....Mother Rosanna Davis

The Solo: "I Won't Complain" ..... Minister Eric Keys, Sr.

The Obituary ..... Sister Lisa Johnson, Daughter

The Remarks

♥ Deacon Ron McClain

♥ Elder Kevin Taylor, Nephew

Additional Remarks (Limit two minutes please)

The Selection ..... Morningstar First Baptist Church Choir

The Reflections and Eulogy ..... Elder Fitzgerald Johnson, Son

The Closing Prayer ..... Pastor David Roberts

Musical Postlude

**You are invited after the conclusion of the memorial to a repost for family  
and friends, prepared by Morningstar Baptist Church**

Dear Gammy,

There never was a moment where I saw you complain  
Even when things got rough and you could not stand the pain

The moments we shared, even though they were small

I will always love and cherish them all

Continue to watch over me with the Big Man in the sky

As I continue to remember my loving butterfly

There's just one last message that will never go away.

It will always be something I will whisper to myself and say....

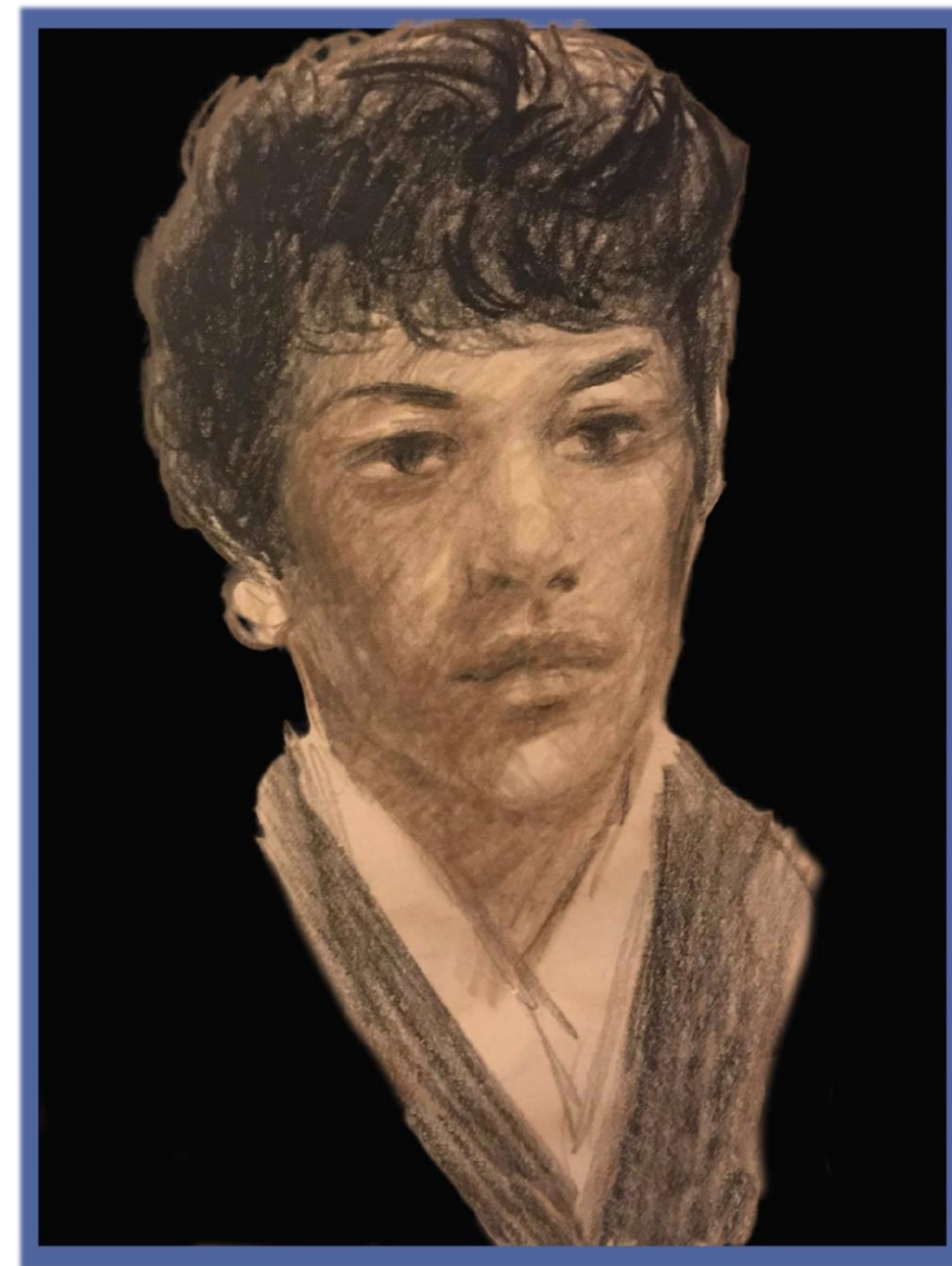
"I love you a bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck" - Gammy

From your Princess - Erika Keys, Granddaughter





# A Celebration of Life For *Mrs. Rosalie Sharpe Johnson*



*If Roses Grow in Heaven  
If roses grow in Heaven Lord,  
Please pick a bunch for me.  
Place them in my Mother's arms  
and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that I love and miss her,  
and when she turns to smile,  
Place a kiss upon her cheek  
and hold her for awhile.  
Because remembering her is easy,  
I do it everyday.  
But there's an ache within my heart  
that will never go away*

## *With Our Thanks*

*...that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope, (Romans 15) God has given us our church family, neighbors and dear friends, to help us as we go forward. God's Word has been manifested through your many expressions of sympathy and support; we praise God from whom all blessings flow. Thank you for honoring the memory of our beloved Rosalie and for remembering us during her illness and passing. In our risen Lord, we have peace that passes all understanding.*

*The Family*

*Professional Services Entrusted to "Those Who Care"*  
**Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.**  
603 S. Center St., Statesville, NC 28677 704-873-3611  
Visit Mrs. Johnson's Online Tribute at  
[www.rutledgeandbigham.com](http://www.rutledgeandbigham.com)

*A Gift Given*  
**July 22, 1935**

*A Gift Returned*  
**March 5, 2020**

*A Life Well Lived Is Never Lost*

