Order Of Service

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

SOLOIST

REMARKS

READING OF OBITUARY

SOLOIST

EULOGY



Acknowledgements

THE FAMILY OF JOHN WESLEY WALTON SR WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THE OUTPOURING OF LOVE, SUPPORT, AND KINDNESS SHOWN TO US DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. YOUR PRAYERS, COMFORTING WORDS, THOUGHTFUL GESTURES AND FOND MEMORIES OF HIM HAVE BROUGHT US STRENGTH AND PEACE WHEN WE NEEDED IT MOST.

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE STAFF OF 8 HEART AND THE HOSPICE TEAM AT COREWELL HEALTH. BISHOP DESIGNATE RJ MARSHALL AND THE LIGHTHOUSE FULL LIFE CENTER FOR THEIR LOVE, KINDNESS AND SUPPORT.



Final Resting Place

WOODLAWN CEMETERY
2530 KALAMAZOO AVE SE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49507

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED BY

Toombs by Crystal Funeral Services

In Loving Memory of

John Walton



JULY 1, 1940 - JUNE 20, 2026

27 JUNE, 2026

VISITATION 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM
CELEBRATION OF LIFE 11:00 PM

LIGHTHOUSE FULL LIFE CENTER CHURCH
2415 MADISON AVE SE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49507

Obituary

ELDER JOHN WESLEY WALTON SR., AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "SONNY," WAS BORN ON JULY 1, 1940, IN TUNICA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, TO THE LATE JESSIE AND VIRGINIA WALTON. AT AN EARLY AGE, HE CONFESSED HIS FAITH IN CHRIST AND WAS BAPTIZED, BEGINNING A LIFELONG WALK WITH THE LORD.

IN 1960, JOHN MOVED TO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, WHERE HE WORKED FOR ZENITH CORPORATION AND HIS UNCLE'S RESTAURANT. HE WAS ALSO A DEDICATED YOUTH BASEBALL COACH IN THE PONY AND MINER LEAGUES, EARNING NUMEROUS TEAM AWARDS AND BEING RECOGNIZED AS COACH OF THE YEAR IN 1971.

JOHN MARRIED CHARLESETTA DEZELL, AND TOGETHER THEY WELCOMED FOUR CHILDREN. IN 1974, HE RELOCATED HIS FAMILY TO GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, WHERE HE WORKED FOR BLODGETT HOSPITAL AND LATER THE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT.

A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF BETHEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BISHOP WILLIAM C. ABNEY, JOHN SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF BOTH THE USHER BOARD AND BROTHERHOOD MINISTRY. HIS LOVE FOR COOKING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP LED HIM TO ESTABLISH PAPA J'S BARBECUE, A BUSINESS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF HIS BELOVED WIFE CHARLESETTA AFTER 47 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, JOHN FOUND LOVE AGAIN AND MARRIED DOROTHY SUMMERS IN 2010. THEIR UNION BROUGHT ADDITIONAL BLESSINGS TO HIS LIFE, AND HE REMAINED A DEVOTED HUSBAND UNTIL HIS PASSING.

JOHN WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS PARENTS; HIS WIFE, CHARLESETTA WALTON; SONS, MAURICE WALTON AND DARRELL DEZELL; DAUGHTERS, CYNTHIA WALTON AND LINDA IRONS; GRANDDAUGHTER, E'LAN WALTON; BROTHER, WILLIAM WALTON; AND SISTERS, EMMA ROLAND AND MATILDA WALTON.

HE LEAVES TO CHERISH HIS MEMORY HIS LOVING WIFE OF 16 YEARS, DOROTHY WALTON; SONS, JOHN WALTON JR., ERIC (MONIQUE) WALTON, WOODROW (MARGARET), AND REGGIE MARTIN; DAUGHTERS, BEVERLY MATTHEWS (CHARLES) AND TOYNNIA MAXON (MARK); BROTHER, JESSIE (CAROLYN) WALTON; GRANDCHILDREN JOHN MATTHEWS, VICTOR MAXON, KYLE WALTON, ETHAN WALTON, CHARNNIA JONES, EMAYA WALTON, AND KATELYN WALTON; FIVE GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN; SPECIAL FRIENDS PASTOR ROSEMARY DAVIS AND BROTHER BRADY JONES; AND A HOST OF OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO WILL MISS HIM DEARLY.

A Fallen Limb

A CHERISHED BRANCH HAS FALLEN

FROM OUR BELOVED FAMILY TREE.

I HEAR A GENTLE VOICE THAT WHISPERS,

DO NOT GRIEVE FOR ME.

REMEMBER ALL THE JOYOUS TIMES,

THE LAUGHTER, AND THE SONG,

THE BLESSED LIFE I TRULY LIVED

WHILE I WAS STRONG.

CONTINUE OUR OLD TRADITIONS,

I'M COUNTING ON YOUR LOVE.

KEEP SMILING, AND SURELY

THE SUN WILL SHINE FROM ABOVE.

MY SPIRIT IS AT PEACE,

MY SOUL IS AT REST.

REMEMBERING HOW TRULY

WE WERE ALL BLESSED.

LIVE YOUR LIFE FULLY AND BRAVELY,

DON'T WORRY ABOUT FALLS.

I MISS YOU ALL DEARLY,

SO KEEP UP YOUR CHIN.

UNTIL THAT JOYFUL DAY

WE REUNITE AGAIN.

