Epitaph

By Merrit Malloy

When I die
Give what's left of me away
To children
And old men that wait to die.

And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you.
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give them
What you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something,
Something better
Than words
Or sounds.

Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live on in your eyes
And not your mind.

You can love me most
By letting
Hands touch hands,
By letting bodies touch bodies,
And by letting go
Of children
That need to be free.

Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love,
Give me away.





FLOWERS BEARERS

Sis Helen Crump • Mother Vickie Thomas
Sis. Willette Martin • Sis Hallie Reynolds
Sister Latrice Reynolds • Sis. Rochelle James

PALL BEARERS

Grandsons

Surgio Johnson • Gabriel Neloms • Felix Johnson
Derwood Johnson Jr. • Deandre Gilkey

Great Grandsons

Junian Johnson Jr. • Travon Jones
Hezekiah Johnson-George • Tristan Johnson
Royal Johnson • Jatreal Johnson

Acknowledgement

The Family of our dear Sylvia Ann Caviness (Johnson) would truly like to express their thanks for all of the love and support shown during this time of sadness.

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Resthaven Gardens of Memory
11800 W. Kellogg (Hwy. 54) – Wichita KS 67212

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Jackson Mortuary, Inc.
1125 East 13th St. - Wichita, Kansas 67214
Phone: (316) 262-5431 - Fax: (316) 262-6038
www.thejacksonmortuary.com

Memorial Programs lovingly prepared by Deb's Creative Services



Celebrating the Life of

SYLVIA ANN CAVINESS

SUNRISE: 11/8/1938 ~ SUNSET: 09/26/2026

Sylvia Ann Caviness (Johnson) was born on November 8, 1938, to Lessie Mae Moore Caviness and Willis Edward Caviness in Burlington, North Carolina. Sylvia was the oldest child of this union.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Graham where she served as a member of the youth choir, the Baptist Training Unit (BTU) and a youth delegate. This would allow Sylvia to attend other churches near and far and assorted community events that would share ideas and involvement of young people that would be reported back to the local churches.

Sylvia's education was achieved through the Graham public school district, where she later received her high school diploma from Graham High School, Graham, North Carolina, Class of 1958. Due to how Sylvia valued all that crossed her path, her politeness and genuinely respectfulness of others, it is easy to see why her class superlatives named her as "Most Courteous".

Sylvia met and married Elmo Johnson, Jr in North Carolina, where he served in the United States, Army. Together they moved to Wichita, Kansas, where Elmo could not wait to share his beautiful, Jesus-loving bride with his parents, the late Elder Joseph, and Mother Lucille Smith whom Sylvia loved and cherished. It is at this time that Sylvia became a member of the Church of God in Christ. Sylvia and Elmo were blessed with five children, Anita Mitchelle, Teresa Arlene (known to all as Lady), Patricia E.M., Robert Vincent and Paula Rochelle.

Sylvia worked for many years, including as a cashier at Jabara's grocery store on the corner of 21st and Grove, and much like many of the air capital population, she worked in the aircraft industry that included both Cessna (now Textron) and Boeing, where she retired in 2001.

In April 1992, Sylvia was the victim of a horrible act of crime, where she was shot 7 times at her home, leaving her paralyzed and in a wheelchair. This, however, did not stop her smile, her love for Jesus, kindness, and her biggest love language, the ACT OF GIVING. Through her determination, Sylvia returned to work 11 months after the incident and continued at Boeing until her retirement.

Sylvia is proceeded in death by parents, parent in-laws, her beautiful daughter Teresa (Lady) Johnson, oldest sister; Gladys, and her brothers James, Robert, James (Doc) and Francis (Joe).

She is survived by her children, Anita Johnson Smith, Patricia Johnson George, Robert Johnson (April), and Paula Johnson, 12 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, a brother Herbert Caviness of Jacksonville, North Carolina, sisters Carolyn Boulton of Nashville, Tennessee, and Peggie Timberlake of Durham, North Carolina, Her treasured daughter, Constance Nash and bonus granddaughters Danika, Yuliana, and Tierra.

Give like Mama 💙🩵💙🩵






Sylvia lived by love unselfishly, she touched all hearts everywhere she went, she gave when she didn't have to give. She knew one day that she would leave us so she left us with something we will never forget, something better than words she left her heart, she left her love. So, if you need to feel her presence just give away what she left, she left her love unconditional love because love never dies.

CELEBRATION OF SYLVIA'S LIFE

Wednesday – October 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

St. Mark Cathedral COGIC
1018 North Dellrose – Wichita, Kansas 67208
Elder Cameron Martin, Pastor

Minister of Music: Elder Stephan Daily

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional of Clergy and Family

Song: "Speak to My Heart"
Bro. Blayton Peach

Scripture
Elder Rondell Love

Prayer
Elder Billy Hubbard

Acknowledgements & Obituary
Mother Pauline Gentry

Remarks
Mo Vickie Taylor, State Supervisor
St. Mark Cathedral COGIC

Remarks and Song
Elder Sherman Edwards

Words of Comfort / Eulogy
Apostle Roderick Houston, Lead Pastor
Greater Harvest Tabernacle Christian Fellowship

Closing Remarks
Elder Cameron Martin, Pastor
St. Mark Cathedral COGIC

Parting View / Recessional