

FINAL THOUGHTS

As we gather to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life of Belve Johnson, we remember her as a beacon of love, strength, and kindness. She exemplified the values of faith, family, and service in every aspect of her life. Belve's strength through adversity, coupled with her gentle spirit, left an indelible mark on all who knew her.

She found joy in life's simple pleasures—shopping/traveling with her daughters, cherishing all things Christmas, crafting, and decorating her home with love. Her culinary talents and creative endeavors brought warmth and beauty to the lives of those around her. She was a gifted seamstress with the rare ability to design and make an entire outfit in just one day and wear it the next. Her unique designs were always met with admiration, and she received endless compliments for her creativity and craftsmanship. Her talent wasn't just in her skill with a needle and thread—it was in the joy and wonder her work brought to everyone who saw it as well as those who purchased her creations. Her creativity was a true gift that brightened the lives of those around her. Belve's enduring legacy is one of love, dedication, strength and grace. She set an example to “not to sweat the small stuff”, “don't let life get you down” and “just keep on living”, which she often said. Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family, her former students, and the countless others who were inspired by her unwavering commitment to be uplifting and empowering to those around her.

She is preceded in death by her sisters: Christina Banks, Cherry Moss; brother, Sidney Banks, Jr.; brothers-in-law, Frank Moss and Harris Morgan; sister-in-law, Lottie Banks,

In addition to her daughters, she is survived by her brother Ulysses Banks (Marcella Banks) of Miami, Florida, her sister Almarita Morgan, her grandson Joshua E. McNabb, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and extended family members. Belve's relationships with family and friends were her anchor, and her love touched everyone fortunate enough to know her.

May her life continue to motivate us to lead with love, serve with humility, be resilient and cherish every moment with those we hold dear. Belve was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed, but her legacy will remain a guiding light for generations to come.



Acknowledgements

The family of **Belve Brinson Johnson** recognizes that we are truly blessed with love and friendship. We wish to express our appreciation and sincere gratitude for the many words of comfort and acts of kindness extended to us during this difficult time. May God's richest blessings continue to be with each of you.

~The Family

Services Entrusted to

Edwards Small Mortuary
“Committed to Excellence”



1011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Fort Valley, GA 31030

<https://www.edwardssmallmortuary.com>

478-825-8700



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Belve
**BRINSON
JOHNSON**



June 29, 1948 ~ December 14, 2024

Saturday, December 21, 2024
11:00 a.m.

Edwards Small Mortuary Chapel
1011 Martin Luther King, Jr Drive
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030



Pastor Nyahaley Labor, Eulogist

Celebrating Belve

Belve Brinson Johnson was born on June 29, 1948, in Dublin (Laurens County), Georgia, to the late Mr. Sidney Banks, Sr. and Mrs. Luella Jones Banks. From the very beginning, her life was rooted in faith, family, and a deep commitment to service.

Belve married her college sweetheart, the late Willie C. Brinson of Bainbridge, Georgia, and their union was blessed with two daughters: Kristina Brinson and Dr. Krystal N. Brinson. Later, she married the late Glen H. Johnson of Atlanta, Georgia, and was further blessed with a stepdaughter, the late Tracie Johnson McNabb.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

Belve's spiritual journey began at Laurens Hill Baptist Church in Dudley, Georgia, where she was baptized in 1954. Her faith and dedication to the Lord were central to her life. She carried this foundation with her as she joined Central Union Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Valley, Georgia, where she served tirelessly in various roles, including President of New Members Classes, choir member, Sunday School attendee, Vacation Bible School art teacher and member of the Institute of Christian Education. She was an active participant in the Young Women's Auxiliary and the Church Calendar Committee, demonstrating her devotion to uplifting her church and community.

In the early 2000s, Belve began attending Emmanuel Lutheran Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. There, she most recently served on the Woman of Emmanuel Committee and enthusiastically supported many other church activities. Her unwavering faith and active participation in ministry reflected her deep connection with GOD and her desire to serve others through love and compassion.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Belve's journey of excellence began at Millville High School, where she graduated in 1965. Her time at Millville was marked by leadership and creativity. She participated in the 4-H Club, the Millville School Dance Group, and the school's first band, where she played the trumpet. She served as a Library Assistant (SLAG), Band Secretary, Treasurer of the Junior Class, and Recording Secretary of the Senior Class. Known for her artistic talent, Belve designed and created artwork for several school programs. Her leadership and achievements earned her recognition as Miss Freshman and the Miss Debutante Award in Dublin, Georgia.

Following in the footsteps of her siblings, Belve continued her academic journey at Fort Valley State College (now University), where she excelled as a student and leader. She was crowned Miss Senior and

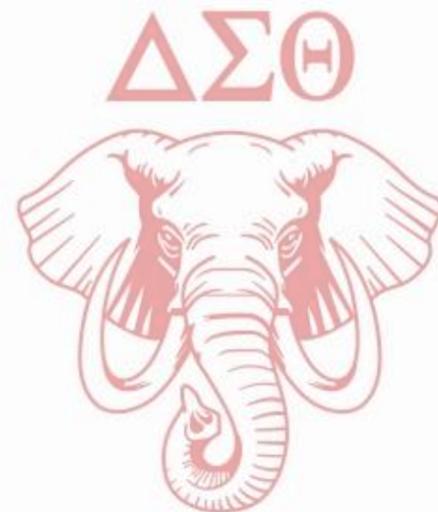
earned her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1969. Her dedication to education led her to pursue a Master of Science in Elementary Education, which she completed in 1974.

Belve's career as an educator spanned over 31 years, during which she touched countless lives with her passion and commitment. She began her teaching journey at Kings Chapel Elementary in Perry, Georgia, before becoming a trailblazer during the 1970 racial integration of Shirley Hills Elementary in Warner Robins. Subsequently, she continued to break barriers by integrating both Lindsey Elementary and Russell Elementary. When she began teaching at Russell Elementary in 1977, she was the only African American teacher assigned to first grade, during a time when the school permitted only one African American teacher per grade level. Her excellence in teaching was recognized when she was named Teacher of the Year at Russell Elementary for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Despite these challenges, her resilience and dedication to her students shone brightly. Belve retired in 2000, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, excellence, and unwavering dedication to her students. Beyond the classroom, she was an active member of professional organizations, including the National Education Association (NEA) and the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE). Her influence extended far beyond her students, as she inspired colleagues and community members alike.

LEGACY AND AFFILIATIONS

Belve's contributions were not limited to education. She was a proud member of the NAACP, the National Reading Teachers Association, the United Way, the American Cancer Society, and the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. Her lifelong commitment to learning and service was also reflected in her membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Additionally, she was a lifetime member of Fort Valley State University Alumni Chapter, where she continued to support and celebrate the values of her beloved alma mater.



Order of Service

Officiant, Rev. Dr. John Davis

Prelude

Processional

Prayer.....Pastor Nyahaley Labor

Scripture

Pastor Nyahaley Labor
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Atlanta, GA 30311

Eulogy.....Pastor Nyahaley Labor

Acknowledgements.....Edwards Small Mortuary Staff

Recessional

Postlude

Interment

Willow Lake Memorial Gardens
1854 Willow Lake Road
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

