



Juanita
JOHNSON

OCTOBER 4, 1929 – JANUARY 1, 2026

Services: Saturday, January 17, 2026

Mt. Zion Baptist Church  417 Richmond Avenue Kansas City, KS



THE FACES OF MOTHER

Juanita JOHNSON





Celebration Service



Processional

Congregational Hymn

Scripture and Prayer

Selection

Mt. Zion Mass Choir

Acknowledgements, Condolences and

Resolutions

Deborah Singleton

Remarks (2 minutes)

Jean C. Allan

Deacon Vincent Wilson

Dondrea Fisher Passmore

Words of reflections (*read in silence*)

Remembering Mother Johnson

As a Mother

Hevonte L. Robinson

As an Aunt

Willie Holton Halbert

Selection

Mt. Zion Mass Choir

Words of Comfort

Rev. Dr. C. L. Bachus

Benediction

Recessional

Rev. Anthony J. Spight - Officiant



Remembering the Life of *Juanita* Johnson

Juanita Holton Johnson was born October 4, 1929 in Steele, MO; the youngest of two children reared by Deacon John L. Holton and Ms. Willie Lou (Jones) Holton.

Juanita was initially raised in Pascola, MO, later moving to the countryside of Neelyville, MO at age of 13. She attended Phyllis Wheatley High School in Poplar Bluff, MO (about thirty miles from Neelyville) where her favorite subject was Home Economics. She proudly graduated in 1949.

Her mother, Mama Willie, owned "Roosevelt and Willie's Tavern" where Juanita worked during high school.

At a young age, Juanita was baptized at St. John Baptist Church, where her father served as a Deacon. Although she was initially fearful of the water, seeing her father standing beside the pastor provided a sense of safety.

Following her graduation, she moved to Kansas City, MO, with her fiancé, John Willie Johnson. They were united in matrimony on June 16, 1951, in Arkansas after a long courtship. They celebrated their 60th anniversary with a vow renewal in June 2011. The couple was blessed to share 66 years of marriage before his passing.

Juanita dedicated over 20 years to Dial Business Forms Inc. as a packer before retiring in 1991.

In August 1951, she and husband J. W. joined Mt. Zion Baptist Church, serving faithfully for over 75 years. She organized the church's Easter program for many years, and was a member of the Church Beautiful club. As a devoted Kindergarten Sunday School teacher for nearly 60 years, Mama Johnson felt she needed to be in the classroom before her students arrived. She served as an usher on the Senior Usher Board for 50 plus years and proudly sponsored the Youth Usher Board #2 for over 50 years, ensuring uniforms were neat and decorum orderly. She was nicknamed "The Warden of Mt Zion" who ran a tight ship whether the Usher Board or the dining room.

Over time, she became affectionately known as "Mama Johnson." She is fondly remembered for pinching kids' ears to correct them, pulling the hems of ladies skirts to indicate

they were too short and stopping people from walking during devotion; in short she mandated proper church etiquette whether youth or adult..

Mother Johnson received various awards and certificates from her church, notably the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Leadership Award in 2011 for her exceptional support and leadership

In 2020, Mamma Johnson was bestowed with the title of "Mother Juanita Johnson" and appointed to serve on the Mt. Zion Motherboard. She embraced this role with pride and dignity.

An active member of her community, she visited the Cleaver YMCA five days a week, where she formed many friendships. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, biblical movies, baseball, and nurturing her flourishing vegetable gardens each year.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Holton and Willie Lou Holton Haliburton; her brother, Rev. Jesse Lee Holton Sr.; her husband, J.W. Johnson; her daughter, Donna Marie Johnson; and her nephews, Gerald Holton, Robert Holton, Jesse Holton Jr., and Rodney Holton.

Mother Johnson answered her Savior's call on January 1, 2026. As she reflected on her life, she embraced the words of 2 Timothy 4:7-8: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Mama Johnson leaves a cherished legacy for her nephews George Holton, Marcus Holton, and John Holton; her nieces Geraldine McCann, Willie L. Holton Halbert, and Jeanita Eaves; her godchildren John "Jackie" Robinson, Hevonte L. Robinson, and Dondrea Fisher Passmore; along with numerous great and great-great nieces, nephews, and cousins. She will also be fondly remembered by her Mt. Zion Baptist Church family, the many youth children (mostly now adults) she loved through the years and the community group at the Cleaver YMCA.

Juanita

MOMENTS IN TIME



Juanita JOHNSON MEMORY GALLERY



Juanita JOHNSON MEMORY GALLERY



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your hope has sustained us, your friendship has surrounded us, your love has given us strength. Thank you for your kindness during our deepest sadness. We sincerely appreciate your prayers and gifts; they will always be remembered.

The family of *Mother Juanita Johnson*

Pallbearers

Marcus Holton

Denard Eaves, Jr.

Daniel Eaves

John Robinson

The Deacons

of Mt Zion Baptist Church

Honorary Pallbearers

Holton Family

Nephews and Great Nephews

Services Entrusted to

Serenity Memorial Chaple

1101 Bannister Rd, Kansas City, MO

Internment

Brooking Cemetery

10004 E 53rd St . Kansas City, Missouri