

"Still I Raise"

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

By: Maya Angelou

In Loving
MEMORY

Pallbearers

Keyonte Weston

Eric Pierce

LuVell Williams

Kevonte Hall

Mykal Dale

Honorary Pallbearers

Robert Purdie

Chaseton Gamble

Flower Bearers

Roberta Purdie

Jennifer Williams

Felicia Stegall

Lori Jackson

Dione Pierce

Honorary Flower Bearers

Connie Jackson

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

- The family of Erica Yvette Pierce-Johnson



Known for Excellence. Trusted for Value.



Erica Yvette Pierce-Johnson

July 14, 1970 - November 10, 2025

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Visitation: 10:00 AM - Funeral Service: 12:00 PM

First New Shiloh Baptist Church

710 South Fred Shuttlesworth Circle | Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

Pastor Rayshawn Boyd, Officiating

Obituary

Erica Yvette Pierce Johnson, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2025. A lifelong Cincinnati, Erica brought warmth, humor, and compassion to everyone who had the blessing of knowing her.

Born to Mary Diane Pierce and Hayward Hudson Pierce, Erica was raised with strong family values and deep faith. She was the eldest sibling to Eric Pierce and a loving big sister to Elisha Pierce—a role she cherished and carried into every relationship in her life. On September 2, 2000, Erica married Markus Johnson, and three years later, on April 25, 2003, they welcomed their greatest joy: their daughter, McKenzie Jehlani Kiah Johnson.

Erica graduated from Northwest High School in 1988 and later earned her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Legal Assisting from the University of Cincinnati in 1995. She dedicated 17 years of service to St. Joseph Orphanage (now NewPath), where her gentle spirit and mothering nature touched countless young lives. She then discovered her true calling in education, becoming a beloved teacher at IDEA School in Price Hill. Erica also enjoyed her seasonal positions at Bath & Body Works—which she loved—and proudly worked in merchandise at Kings Island, where her bright personality shined.

A woman of deep faith, Erica joined First New Shiloh Baptist Church at the age of 12 under Pastor Mangam. She continued to grow in service, fellowship, and community throughout her life. She was also a proud member of the Cincinnati Queen City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., crossing on April 26, 2008, as well as a committed member of the Pride of the Valley Lodge #95 Order of the Eastern Stars.

Erica was known for her kindness, her ability to make everyone feel cared for, and her joyful, humorous spirit. She loved to shop, share jokes, and talk about cherished memories. Wherever she went, she brought love, laughter, and a sense of home.

Erica is survived by her beloved daughter, McKenzie Johnson; her mother, Mary Diane Pierce; her father, Hayward Hudson Pierce; her brother, Eric (Dione) Pierce and her sister, Elisha Pierce; her cherished niece Keoni and great-niece Kylee; her nephew Kevonte; her best friends, Jennifer “GeeGee” Williams and Felicia Stegall; and a host of extended family, Sorors, church family, colleagues, and friends who loved her dearly.

Erica's life was a testament to love, faith, service, and generosity. She mothered the world around her, and her legacy will continue to live in the hearts of all who were touched by her warmth and light.

May her memory be a blessing.



Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Omega Omega Service Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Parting View Immediate Family

Prayer Pastor Joe Maddox

Scripture Bishop Walter Wilson

Selection Maya Boyd
"The Lord's Prayer"

Acknowledgements Felicia Stegall

Remarks 2 Minutes Please

Obituary Read Silently

Selection Pastor Tim Maddox
"Move Upstairs"

Eulogy Pastor Hayward Pierce

Benediction Pastor Hayward Pierce

Recessional Clergy, Family & Friends



Repast

Hughes STEM High School
2515 Clifton Ave, Cincinnati Ohio, 45219