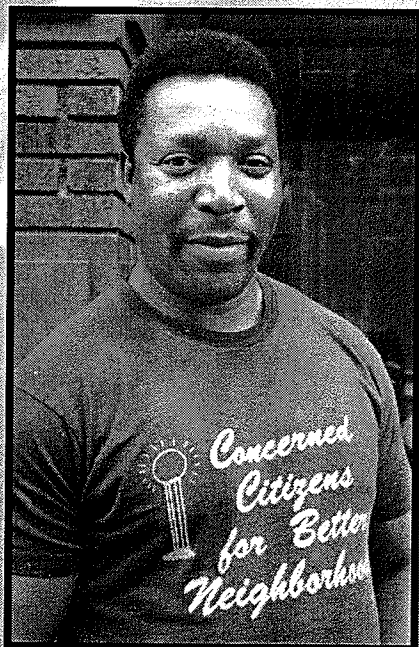


A CELEBRATION OF
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
John Lee Johnson



SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2006
11:00 O' CLOCK A.M.

GREATER HOLY TEMPLE CHURCH
1409 WEST DUBLIN STREET • URBANA, ILLINOIS

REVEREND LARRY C. SIMMONS, EULOGIST
REVEREND B. J. TATUM, OFFICIANT

Order of Service

OFFICIATING

Reverend B. J. Tatum

SENIOR PASTOR

CANAAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

URBANA, ILLINOIS

Prelude

Mr. Willie T. Summerville

Processional

The Ministers & The Johnson Family

Call To Worship

Rev. B. J. Tatum

Prayer of Comfort

Elder Jerome Chambers, Sr. Pastor
Liberty Temple Church of God
In Christ

Opening Song

"There Is A Name"

Combined Choir

The Holy Scriptures

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 139:1-10

Elder Phillip Dukes
Greater Holy Temple Church

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:28-39

Rev. Ms. Shirley Melker
Assistant Pastor, Greater Holy
Temple Church

Musical Tribute

"The Lord's Prayer"

Official Tributes

Honorable Dannel McCollum
Former Mayor, Champaign, Illinois

Mr. David Gillon
Busey Bank

Mr. Michael LaDue
Deputy Mayor, Champaign, Illinois

Musical Tribute

Mr. Michael Johnson, Nephew

Acknowledgments

Reverend Dr. Evelyn Underwood
New Free Will Baptist Church

The Obituary

Mrs. Jeanette Laws
Greater Holy Temple Church

Special Friends Tributes

Mr. David Addison,
Attorney, New York, NY

Mr. Robert Charles Butler,
Nashville, TN

Mr. Terry Townsend, Champaign, IL

Clergy Tributes

(3 minutes please)

Musical Tribute

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"
Ms. Pamela Pirtle

The Eulogy

Elder Larry C. Simmons, Senior Pastor
Greater Holy Temple Church,
Urbana, Illinois

Song Of Preparation

"Til We Meet Again"
Combined Choir

Preparation for Departure

Rev. Ms. Shirley Melker & Staff
Melker-Bluitt-Parker Mortuary,
Champaign, Illinois

The Recessional

Combined Choirs



Committal And Interment

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

A CELEBRATION OF THE LEGACY OF

Mr. John Lee Johnson

Obituary

John Lee Johnson was born to the (Late) Thomas Lester Johnson and Mamie Carr Johnson on August 7, 1941 in Champaign, Illinois. He was the seventh of twelve children born to this union. John never relocated to any other city but remained a life-long resident of this community. He attended the Champaign-Urbana School Districts and became an early advocate for the Black citizenry. He developed a compelling drive to see his community become a better place to work and thrive.

He was a member of Greater Holy Temple Church, Urbana, Illinois where his home was demolished to make room for the present church sanctuary. He was the champion of conversation and possessed a terrific talent for drawing and poetry. Mr. Johnson also hosted a weekly radio program on WBCP Radio, "A Conversation with John Lee Johnson," and a show on WEFT radio, "Higher Ground."

John did not earn any formal degrees; however, he became a self-trained defender, counsel, spokesman and fighter. Through persistence, hard work as well as opposition, he never succumbed to failure nor rejection. His selfless nature always facilitated his work as an advocate for people of color.

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment . . ." HEBREWS 9:27. After a three-month battle with a debilitating illness, he went quietly to keep his unalterable appointment with the Master on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at Carle Hospital, Urbana, Illinois.

John Lee Johnson is survived by one son, John Ore Johnson, Atlanta, Georgia, the son of John and the (Late) Dr. Delores Parmer Woodtor; four brothers, Louis H. Johnson and Thomas Johnson, Urbana; Larry Johnson, Champaign, IL; William Johnson, Dayton, Ohio; four sisters, Gertrude Palmer and Ann Marie Johnson, Urbana, IL; Fannie Chalk, Huber Heights, Ohio; Carolyn Johnson, Champaign, IL; two grandchildren and a host of other relatives and special friends.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith . . ." Now John Lee Johnson is in the presence of the Angelic Host, his parents, Thomas and Mamie, his two brothers, Charles and George, and his two sisters, Vivian and Betty.

What is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. Till we meet again, Good Night father, brother, uncle, member, friend. We'll meet you in the morning. You will sorely be missed but never forgotten.

A Short Summary Of John's Accomplishments

- Founded and directed the Eads Street Development Corporation, developing new housing in Champaign, Urbana, and Rantoul
- Worked for Adler Zone Center, State Mental Health Department as an advocate for the poor
- Established the Community Advocacy Depot, made up of University students in Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Urban Planning, Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, Business and Law, who invested their resources in the Black Community
- Established Neighborhood Youth Design Depot to help community youth learn entrepreneurship and get gainful employment
- Worked with Legal Services to get representation for low-income people
- Worked to establish Special Opportunities program to expand Black enrollment at the University of Illinois
- Established comprehensive post-school program for Black youth
- Developed Bradley Park apartments
- Ran for a seat on the Champaign City Council in 1972
- Was elected first Black District Representative in Champaign County
- Offered first Redistricting Map for the Urbana Board Of Education
- Argued for and wrote the first proposal for the Taylor Thomas Home Project
- Created the first Affordable Housing Purchase Rehab and Sale Program mortgaged by Busey Bank
- Generated loans directed to first-time home buyers
- Filed over 14 interventions against lending practices of banks in Champaign/ Urbana
- Developed the Concerned Citizen / Inter-Faith Not-For-Profit Housing Corporation
- Authored and sponsored the first Champaign City Affirmative Action Ordinance
- Member of the Champaign City Council from 1972-1982
- Organized and directed Concerned Citizens Committee
- Helped conceive and implement Project 500 Program at University of Illinois
- Developed five FHA Single Family Housing Units at Eads-at-Lincoln Subdivision
- Founded Northeast Champaign Youth Movement
- Co-Founded People's Poverty Board

A WARRIOR'S PRAYER

Long since, in sore distress, I heard one pray:

“Lord, who prevailest with resistless might,
Ever from war and strife keep me away;
My battles fight!”

I know not if I play the Pharisee,

And if my brother after all be right;
But mine shall be the warrior's plea to
Thee
Strength for the fight.

I do not ask that Thou shalt front the fray,

And drive the warring foeman from my sight;
I only ask, O Lord, by night, by day,
Strength for the fight.

When foes upon me press, let me not quail,

Nor think to turn me into coward flight.
I only ask, to make mine arms prevail,
Strength for the fight.

And when, at eventide, the fray is done,

My soul to Death's bed-chamber do Thou light,
And grant me, be the field or lost or won,
Rest from the fight.

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR, 1872-1906



Acknowledgments

The family of Mr. John Lee Johnson, with grateful hearts, wish to acknowledge the many kindnesses performed during this period of our bereavement. The bond between our hearts still holds fast, strengthened by love and understanding. Sometimes it's hard to understand, but faith was meant for times like these. Each sympathetic gesture has served as a source of comfort. May the peace of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be always. We wish especially to thank the community of Champaign-Urbana and John's friends who made monetary donations and your prayers during his illness and transition.

THE CASKET BEARERS

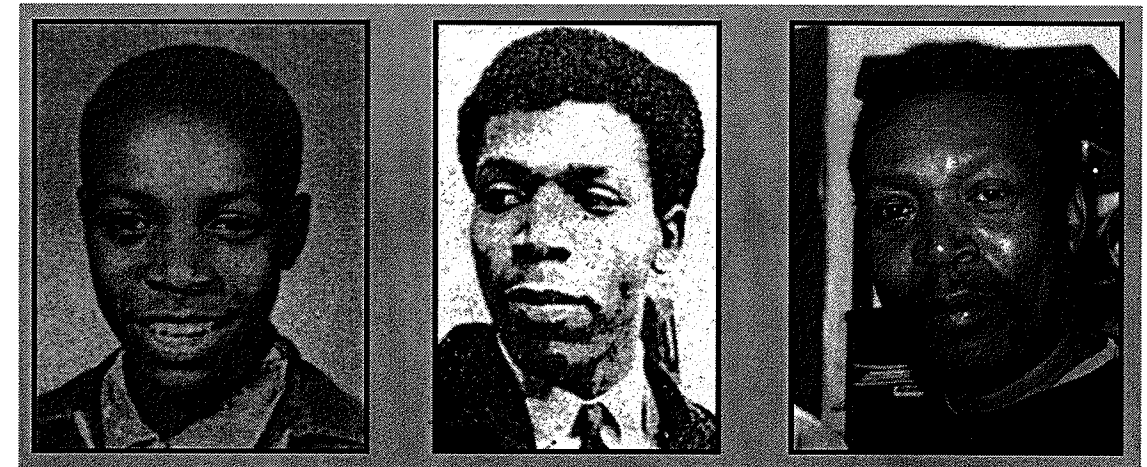
The Johnson Brothers

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Mr. David Addison	Mr. Avon Killion
Mr. Theodore Adkisson	Mr. Howard Mitchell
Mr. Dwight Atkins	Mr. Jesse Owens
Mr. Sidney Bingham	Mr. Terry Townsend
Dr. Robert Charles Butler	Mr. Roy Williams

FLOWER BEARERS

Friends of the Family



THE FAMILY ENTRUSTED THEIR LOVED ONE TO:

MELKER BLUITT-PARKER MORTUARY

704 North Fourth Street
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 359-5530
Day or Night



Rev. Shirley E. Melker
Owner
John E. Gibson
Licensed Funeral Director