



Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston

July 28, 1949 - December 18, 2021

The passing of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston, age 72, at Carver Living Center, is being announced by her son, Adam David Alphonzo Johnston.

Loretta Ruth Johnston was born July 28, 1949 to the late Rev. Dr. David A. Johnston (25th Pastor of Saint Joseph AME, Durham, serving 1948-1958) and Second Episcopal District Supervisor Verdelle Ruth Johnston (serving 1988-1992). She honored her father and mother as a loving and devoted daughter. Loretta departed this life during the late afternoon of December 18th, 2021 and now lives with the Father, eternally. We rejoice and celebrate her life!

Loretta was educated in the Durham Public School System and is a proud graduate of the Hillside High School Class of 1967. Upon her graduation from Hillside, Loretta Johnston moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University. She is a double-bison having received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Urban Planning and Development. Loretta was a strong advocate for education at all levels and would jokingly boast of being a proud P.H.D. dropout throughout her work life.

Loretta followed in the footsteps of her mother in teaching and began her professional career as a pre-K school teacher in the D.C. Public School System. She soon transitioned from teaching to securing government contracts and fundraising resources for primary education. During her tenure as a Management Consultant, she frequently travelled up and down the east coast and the Caribbean to consult on contracts and loved those experiences. Loretta retired as a Management Consultant from Development Associates after 30 years of service. Loretta returned to her hometown of Durham, North Carolina in 2011 after living in Washington, D.C. for over forty years.

Loretta was truly a product of the AME church. Loretta was fond of the two churches she called home throughout the course of life. Ms. Johnston served in multiple roles throughout her childhood. Being the daughter of an A.M.E. minister, Loretta prided herself on knowing the tradition and history of the A.M.E. church. When Loretta moved to

Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University she immediately transitioned her membership from St. Joseph to Metropolitan AME church. Throughout Loretta's adulthood she remained active in her faith walk with Christ by serving on various Trustee and Stewardship boards at Metropolitan and worked on Bishop William DeVeaux's campaign for bishop. Upon her relocation to Durham, Loretta stayed active in the St. Joseph Lay organization and the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization. She would later apply her vast knowledge of the AME church and St. Joseph in helping create the church history for the 147th Anniversary for St. Joseph A.M.E church.

Ms. Johnston was a prideful woman, who believed in the Lord and the importance of the AME church. She had a profound impact on her loved ones and community and she will be missed.

Sister Johnston was preceded in death by her parents, the Rev. Dr. David A. Johnston (25th Pastor of Saint Joseph, Durham, serving 1948-1958) and Second Episcopal District Supervisor Verdelle Johnston (serving 1988-1992), and her beloved sister Doris Johnston Hayes. Loretta is survived by her son, Adam David Alphonzo Johnston; daughter-in-law Chelsea Merritt Johnston; and granddaughter on the way!

A service to celebrate the life of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston will be held on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at St. Joseph AME Church, 2521 Fayetteville Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707, with a viewing from 9:00 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.

The Homegoing Service for Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston will be streamed live via the St. Joseph AME Church's website at <https://www.stjosephame.org/>

Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston will be laid to rest in Beechwood Cemetery.

In every effort to protect our families and their guests, face coverings are required.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 3. 9:00 AM - 9:55 AM (ET)

St. Joseph AME Church
2521 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 683-1379

Celebration of Life

JAN 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph AME Church
2521 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 683-1379

Tribute Wall

SL

“ I read Loretta's obituary with a heavy heart. She was my Project Director when I started with Development Associates in 1989. She taught me so much about life and I'm forever grateful to her for that. Rest in Peace, Loretta. I know you raised a great son and I know how proud you were of him.

Sally Lukash - March 31, 2024 at 05:38 PM



“ Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM

AB

“ My sincere condolences to my classmates's family in her transition to eternity.

Algeria Hardy-Brown
Ft. Worth, TX.



Algeria Hardy Brown - January 22, 2022 at 01:51 AM

GH

“ Geraldine Horton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Geraldine Horton - January 03, 2022 at 11:04 PM

GH

So sorry for the loss of Loretta.
God loved her best!

Geraldine Horton - January 03, 2022 at 11:28 PM

JB

“ Jerry Bentley lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Jerry Bentley - January 03, 2022 at 05:44 PM

CJ

“ *C. Hope Brown Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston*



C. Hope Brown Johnson - January 03, 2022 at 03:18 PM

CJ

Adam I know how difficult it is for you during your time of deep sorrow. Your mother was a wonderful soulful woman - a woman of God. I grew up in St. Joseph Church and served as a junior missionary in the 1960s and knew your mother well. I also attended Metropolitan AME with your mother and I remember when her Adam was born. She cherished you. You have my deep and heartfelt condolences.

C. Hope Brown Johnson - January 03, 2022 at 03:28 PM

VB

“ *Verna L. Brogden lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston*



Verna L. Brogden - January 03, 2022 at 08:39 AM

WJ

“ *Wilhelmenia Jordan lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston*



Wilhelmenia Jordan - January 02, 2022 at 09:11 PM

WJ

“ *Adam, I know that you have wonderful memories of your mother, and if you keep those memories in your heart, your mother will always be there, so remember all the wonderful experiences you both shared together.*

Wilhelmenia Jordan - January 02, 2022 at 09:10 PM

GL

“ Gerald D. Logan lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Gerald D. Logan - January 02, 2022 at 07:24 PM

RM

“ Rev. Valerie Mciver lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Rev. Valerie Mciver - January 01, 2022 at 07:55 PM

BL

“ Bonnie D. Logan lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Bonnie D. Logan - December 30, 2021 at 01:45 PM

BH

“ Brenda B Henderson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Brenda B Henderson - December 30, 2021 at 09:58 AM

BH

Condolences and prayers to the family during your bereavement. God Bless

Brenda B Henderson - December 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM

JJ

“ Jacquelyn McCrae Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Jacquelyn McCrae Jenkins - December 28, 2021 at 04:14 PM

DG

“ Denise Gaddy Gamble lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Denise Gaddy Gamble - December 27, 2021 at 04:50 PM

TP

“ Thomasine Bass Perry sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Thomasine Bass Perry - December 27, 2021 at 12:32 PM

HD

“ Harriette Davis lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Harriette Davis - December 26, 2021 at 01:55 PM

DB

“ Denise Ratliff Brandon lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Denise Ratliff Brandon - December 26, 2021 at 01:35 PM

SH

“ Shirley Ward Holloway lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Shirley Ward Holloway - December 22, 2021 at 10:39 PM

FS

“ To the Johnston Family: With Sympathy For Your Loss

I pray that you will find peace in knowing that your loss is shared by friends who care and that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Class of 1967
Fay B. Southerland*



Fay B. Southerland - December 22, 2021 at 01:55 PM

VB

*Adam,
So sorry to learn of Loretta's transition. Know that you are in our prayers that God will give you strength during this difficult time.
It was evident that she loved you during your years at Metropolitan AME in DC.
Cherish that bond and beautiful memories you shared.*

*Verna L. Brogden
Metropolitan AME Church*

Verna L. Brogden - January 03, 2022 at 08:27 AM

BE

“ Barbara Webb Edwards lit a candle in memory of Ms. Loretta Ruth Johnston



Barbara Webb Edwards - December 21, 2021 at 10:38 PM