



Ernestine Gary Johnson

Ernestine Johnson Obituary Reflections of Life Well Lived

In July 1932, a future leader, Earnestine Ethel Gary was born in Edenborn, PA to Solomon and Ethel Powell Gary. She was one of eight children. “Boo,” as she was affectionately called, began her education at the Edenborn Grade School. As a child, she was baptized at Antioch Baptist Church, was an active participant in Sunday School, and played the piano for the junior choir. Somewhere along the way, she changed the spelling of her name to Ernestine and answered to the nickname “Ernie.” Ernie was a good athlete. In fact, she was the best softball player in the neighborhood and always wanted to pitch.

Ernie graduated from German Township High School in McClellandtown, PA in 1950. After high school, she enrolled in the Sociology program at Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA and graduated on May 31, 1954. After graduation, Ernie relocated to Washington DC. She continued her education, earning a Master’s Degree in Administration of Justice from The American University and another Master’s Degree in Legal Studies for the Antioch School of Law.

Ernie was united in marriage to Samuel H. Johnson in 1955. From that union, they were blessed with two children, Gary, and Judith. One of the things they

truly enjoyed was spending time with family and friends. Ernie (Miss E.) was a league bowler for over 50 years and traveled the country with her bowling friends participating in various tournaments. She also enjoyed “spanking” Gary and his friends. She would talk trash and get in their head and consistently remind them, that they “let an old lady beat them.”

Ernie started her government career in 1952 with the Department of the Air Force. This career included positions with the Foreign Operations Administration, the House of Representatives, and the Department of Health and Human Services. She received Honors for her outstanding service in the investigation of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She joined the Metropolitan Police Department in 1954, and rose to the rank of Sargent before retiring in August 1977.

She was the driving force in the management of Lewis Funeral Home in Alexandria, VA and the establishment of J. K. Johnson Funeral Home, P. A. in Temple Hills, MD.

Over the course of her living in the Washington metropolitan area, she served as an active faithful member at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Grace United Methodist, and most recently, worshipped with Genesis Covenant Church under the leadership of Pastor Robert Slade. She served as a Trustee at Mount Sinai Baptist Church for 19 years.

Ernie loved spending time with her family and friends. She always looked forward to her monthly lunch with the girls, her casino outings with family and friends, and her trips to the Senior Center to play bid whist. She was a strong, independent woman, who lived her life on her terms.

On September 28, 2023, Ernestine made her final transition. She was

preceded in death by her husband, Samuel H. Johnson, sisters Anna Gary and Mary Etta Hart Peterson; brothers, Solomon Gary, Jr., and Gothel Gary, and parents, Solomon and Ethel Gary.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her children, Gary A. (Deborah) Johnson, Sr., and Judith Johnson; grandsons, Gary Johnson, Jr., and Christopher Johnson; great-granddaughters, Zariyah and Erin McKinley, and Olivia Daniel; siblings, James (Beverly) Gary, Sr., Robert (Joyce) Gary, Arlene Creek; In-laws, James (Patricia) Brown, Fred (Ivy) Smith, Maggie Jordan, Cleveland Smith, Jr., and Danny Smith and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Her extended family includes “her other son”, Ronnie Williams, her caregiver and companion, Molly Gilmore, and so many other friends that are too numerous to list.

Ernie cherished each of you and know that your relationship with her held a special place in her heart.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Ernestine Gary Johnson, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ A Memorial Tree was planted for Ernestine Gary Johnson
We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at J. K. Johnson
Funeral Home, P. A
Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

A Memorial Tree was planted for Ernestine Gary Johnson - January 23 at 02:47 PM

B“

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Ernestine Gary Johnson
by Barbara “Pascoe”. Plant a TreeWhen I went to work at the
Womans Bureau in 1957,Ernie was one of the first Police Women to
graciously share with me her knowledge and experience.She
helped me avoid many pitfalls and I cherished her friendship.The
WB group has gotten smaller through the years and now we have
lost another link.I shall miss her sense of humor as well as her
friendship,My condolences to her family.Barbara “Pascoe”

Barbara “Pascoe” - January 23 at 02:47 PM

EC

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Ernestine Gary Johnson
by Eloise Clayton. Plant a TreeERNIE, a treasure to me for over 50
years. She possessed & shared enough truth, wisdom, & wit to live
within me forever. PEACE & BLESSINGS, Judy, Gary, & all the
family as she now rests in peaceEloise Clayton

Eloise Clayton - January 23 at 02:47 PM

ES

“ Treasured memories spray was purchased for the family of
Ernestine Gary Johnson. Send Flowers

Expression of Sympathy - January 23 at 02:47 PM

RF

“ Our "favorite cousin" ;) We cherish the memories, the lessons and the love! Mom has her road dog again
Love Roger, Judy and Angela
Roger Faison

Roger Faison - October 24, 2023 at 11:40 AM

CB

“ We were so saddened to hear of the transition of Mrs. Ernestine. She was our neighbor for over 30 years. She always attended our House Christmas parties and was the life of the party. Everyone enjoyed hearing about her careers and the wonderful stories she told. She will be missed but our lives are richer for having known her. Peace and blessings to the family, Charles & Malinda Battle - Joselle Court neighbors.

Charles & Malinda Battle - October 19, 2023 at 12:00 PM

B“

“ When I went to work at the Womans Bureau in 1957, Ernie graciously shared her knowledge and experience with me. She helped me avoid pitfalls and I cherished her friendship. The WB group has gotten smaller through the years and now has lost another link. I shall truly miss her friendship and among other things, her sense of humor. My condolences to her family.

Barbara "Pascoe" - October 12, 2023 at 05:43 PM

TC

“ Ernie was a very smart, wise and caring person. She was beautiful both inside and out. I will miss her many sayings like "getting old ain't for sissies". May God keep her memories alive for her family and friends. Loved you Ms. E
E ðŸ™ðŸ¼ðŸ™

Tawana Clark - October 10, 2023 at 08:45 PM

JA

“ My sincere condolences to Gary and Judy on the passing of your dear Mother. Ernie was a delightful and kind lady with a great sense of humor. I enjoyed every interaction I had with her! She will be missed!

Janice - October 09, 2023 at 05:31 PM

SM

“ Ms E, you will forever be in my heart. I will remember with great fondness every 'pimp walk' when you made a strike, every time you pulled someone aside to coach them. And how you were always right and we learned from the wisdom you imparted. We are all much richer because of you having touched our lives.

Sherri Moxley - October 05, 2023 at 10:33 PM

AS

“ IT WAS OUR PLEASURE TO HAVE KNOWN AND CARED FOR HER!!! WE ARE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY.
ASHLEY A.

ASHLEY - October 04, 2023 at 09:54 AM

AW

“ To: Judy Johnson:My condolences to you and your family on the passing of your mother Mrs. Ernestine Johnson.I have very fond memories of Mrs. Johnson. She and my mother became friends when we moved to the Clinton area, which was more than 40 years ago I'm glad our path crossed again recently and I was able to visit and talk with her about those good old days and there friendship while living in Mary Catherine Estate. In closing mother Johnson your work here on earth is now done and it's time for you to rest until the great day of resurrection.To the family I will keep you prayer.Antionette Willis

Antionette Willis - October 02, 2023 at 08:28 PM