



Ms. Gracie Mae (Malone) Johnson

May 22, 1938 - August 29, 2020

Masks are required while in the building viewing, and for all funeral and graveside services.

Click the link below to watch the live stream:

<https://bit.ly/35dBcxR>

Requirements:

- Must have a Facebook Account or Facebook Messenger Account
- Must have internet access

Steps to View Live Stream

1. Log in to your Facebook account or Facebook Messenger Account.
2. Search for the Rolfe Funeral Home's Facebook page (Search: Rolfe Funeral Home).
3. After entering your search, a list of results will display.
4. Select the Rolfe Funeral Home page and scroll down until you see the live stream.

There are 2 Rolfe Facebook pages, DO NOT go to the Rolfe Funeral Home Inc. page.

a. Select the page titled, “Rolfe Funeral Home”

5. Scroll down the Rolfe Funeral Home Facebook page until you see the Live Stream.

The amazing Gracie Mae (Malone) Johnson peacefully took her last earthly breath on Saturday, August 29th, 2020 at 7:13 p.m. while surrounded by family and loved ones. Master teacher, beautiful inside and out, classy, sweet, kind, strong, amazing...although used frequently to describe her, these words only scratch the surface of who she became in her culmination of eighty-two years of life.

The dirt roads and one-room school-houses of Lester Junction, Arkansas (a small town about 7 miles northwest of Camden) marked the beginning of her journey as she was born to Emma and Roy Malone on May 22, 1938. Her mother Emma, who was forced at a young age to care for her six younger siblings, was no stranger to the value of hard work and a good education. Not only was Mother Emma a teacher, she also worked to put her younger sister, Minerva, through school in order to become a teacher as well. In addition, Gracie’s grandfather would read to her daily from his wall of books by the light of a coal-oil lantern. So as a child, the young Gracie had already internalized the value of education.

While growing up, her mother wanted to ensure that Gracie would never have to be financially dependent on anyone (or any man); so, she sent her to boarding school to learn a trade. As a babysitter for only nine dollars a month, she helped pay her own tuition. This newly developed skill of cosmetology (combined with her keen eye for fashion) not only propelled her into becoming one of Camden’s most popular hair stylists; but it also partially funded her college education in her quest to become a teacher. Despite the blossoming

demands of a new career in hair-styling, she still found time for enjoying basketball, playing the piano, remaining active in the church, and spending time with her six brothers.

Following the footsteps of her mother Emma and her Aunt Minerva, she marched onward to Shorter College with the intent of getting her college education and becoming certified to teach. Little did she know that while cultivating the seeds of becoming an educator, she would also meet the love of her life. While on campus for a church meeting in 1961, Lonnie Johnson was utterly taken upon sight of Gracie, undoubtedly at the mercy of her captivating smile. In an effort to honor his request, Gracie agreed to meet him. Between studying, working, and raising her two kids from a previous marriage, she had little time to spare. Gracie and Lonnie would talk while she would style hair at the local hair salon. And after a few short months of doing hair, lots of talking, but not even a single kiss, Lonnie took her to meet his mother, obtained her blessing, and was married to Gracie the day after Christmas in Clovis, New Mexico in 1962.

At this point, Gracie's attention shifted momentarily to raising her two kids, caring for Lonnie and expanding her family with the birth of two more children. For God had answered her prayers for a god-fearing man to join her as a life partner. This relationship that began with ensuing health tribulations and the financial struggles of making \$11 per week was the beginning of a loving marriage that stretched across almost six decades.

As sacred as family was to her, her conscience was seared to her calling to be an educator. In a greater sense, her family was her community; and her community was her family. She saw in the life of her mother that education was the key to independence for a black woman. And her grandfather taught her that education was essential in commanding the respect of a society that was not created for us as a community. As such, she was determined to empower others with that same insight.

After becoming a teacher's aid during the 1970's, she later became

determined to get her degree and certification for teaching. So, she loaded up her car every day with her kids and her books and commuted from Oklahoma City to Lawton to complete her degree at Cameron University.

Upon completing her degree, she began her 35 years of service with the Oklahoma City Public Schools. As a teacher, she has vested hundreds of kids with the independence and respect that come with an education. As a mentor of young teachers, she has imparted to others the skills, knowledge, and vision to incite a passion for life-long learning. Even after retiring, she earned a certification in Computer Literacy at the age of 75, before returning to teach for as long as her health allowed; finally retiring for the second and last time at the age of 80. Because of her dedication, thousands of lives have been changed and touched for generations to come.

So, the amazing Gracie that we have come to know was decades in the making. It was in the midst of family and loved ones holding hands, reading her favorite scriptures, singing her favorite gospel songs, and many prayers, that she transitioned into eternity. From whence she had come, she had returned. But her earthly light only shines brighter as her spirit continues to impact others for decades to come.

She was preceded in death by her mother (Emma) and five brothers (George, Grady, Herbert, Lloyd, and Thomas).

Gracie leaves to cherish her memory: her husband, Rev. Lonnie Johnson; her children, Ronnie Charles (Judy) Denver, Colorado; son, Johnny (Cynthia) Camden, Arkansas; daughter, Donna Renee, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; son, Lonnie Jr. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; one surviving brother, Herman Malone, Denver, Colorado; Sister-in-law, Bernadine Perkins, Atoka, Oklahoma; Brother-in-law, Maurice Colbert, Tulsa, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Matthew, Stephen, Jamir, Samuel, KeJuane, Chasity, Drew; 9 great grandchildren; along with a host of family and friends. She cherished them all.

Thank you, Amazing Gracie.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 6. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Rolfe Funeral Home
2936 N.E. 36th
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
(405) 424-4136
<https://rolfefuneralhome.com/>

Service

SEP 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Avery Chapel A.M.E.
1425 N. Kelham Ave.
Oklahoma, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *That was my mother, what a queen.*

Ronnie Young - November 27, 2021 at 06:29 PM

ZM

“ *May the Peace that surpasses all understanding be with you Cousin Lonnie. Love You Cousin Zenobia Guess-Mayo*



Zenobia Mayo - September 08, 2020 at 11:14 AM

PK

“ *The Kellum family sends their love and prayers to the family. Grace will be missed but never forgotten.*

Love Pauline and Willie

Pauline kellum - September 08, 2020 at 11:02 AM

RH

“ *Our sincere condolences to Rev. Lonnie Johnson and the entire family of Sister Gracie M. Johnson*

Brother Arthur Holmes and Presiding Elder Ruth M. Holmes

Rev. Ruth M. Holmes - September 07, 2020 at 03:14 PM

RH

“ *Ruth M. Holmes lit a candle in memory of Ms. Gracie Mae (Malone) Johnson*



Ruth M. Holmes - September 07, 2020 at 03:11 PM

TP

“ *In memory ----Traylor -Parks Family Arcadia Oklahoma*



traylor parks - September 06, 2020 at 09:14 PM

SC

“ *My deepest sympathy is extended to the family.*

Sanjena Clay - September 06, 2020 at 04:50 PM

VB

“ *Veola Bray lit a candle in memory of Ms. Gracie Mae (Malone) Johnson*



Veola Bray - September 06, 2020 at 10:10 AM

RB

“ My deepest condolences to you Presiding Elder Johnson and your entire family. I am praying for your strength in the Lord during these difficult times.

Much love always ❤️

Rev. Angela Brewster

Rev. Angela Brewster - September 06, 2020 at 05:55 AM

CP

“ To Presiding Elder Johnson and the family. We share your pain. Praying for God to grant you peace, joy, and a happy heart. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Praying the joy of the Lord be your strength in these difficult days. Always remember, God is with you, and so are we.. from Charles and Vickie Penn

Charles & Vickie Penn - September 05, 2020 at 02:05 PM

JC

I taught with this wonderful woman for many years. She was an amazing teacher and friend. I will always remember our time after the bombing. She was such a comfort to me. Prayers for the family. She made a difference in many lives.

Judy Chalmers

Judith Chalmers - September 05, 2020 at 08:47 PM

AB

Mrs. Johnson was such a sweet genuine spirit! She will be missed.

Anita Brannon - September 07, 2020 at 07:31 PM

JT

“ Grace was my second grade teacher when I was principal at Coolidge Elementary school. A wonderful caring person. She was loved by her students and parents as well. My prayers to Rev Lonnie Johnson ,d and family who has been a valued friend of Thompson and miller family. God’s blessings on your Heavenly journey.

Jesse B Thompson - September 04, 2020 at 05:36 PM

JY

“ Mom I will miss calling and talking to you. But I know you are in a much better place now. God’s word tells us to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. You are now with the Lord and you don’t have to deal with the troubles of this world. I remember asking you and dad if I could call you Mom & Dad and you welcomed me with open arms and for that I will always be grateful. I will miss your presence but I have lots of happy memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Thank you for encouraging, instructing and most of all for loving me as a daughter.



Love You forever Mom

Judy E. Young

Judy Young - September 03, 2020 at 11:07 PM