

Elrene Doris (Biggs) Johnson

Elrene Doris (Biggs) Johnson was born December 20, 1941 to Ella Mae and Floyd Elder Sr. in Memphis TN. She was brought to Chicago, IL in 1942. She attended Douglas Elementary and Doolittle Elementary Schools. While attending Englewood High, she met Wardell Johnson and became high school sweethearts. They later married in Holy matrimony until his death after more than 35 years of marriage.

At an early age, Elrene was always attending churches with her childhood friend Maureen and continued to be a faithful member of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago into her adulthood. In 1964, she attended, then joined New Friendship Baptist Church and was baptized under the leadership of Pastor E. Freeman. After moving to Dixmoor in 1969, she and her children attended Mt. Moriah M.B. Church and continued to be a member of the church until her departure.

Elrene worked at Michael Reese Hospital in dietary for four years. She also worked at Spiegel's as a Tally Clerk. She later found a job closer to home working at Oak Forest Hospital for the next eight years. This is where she decided to further her education and enrolled into the Registered Nurse Program at South Suburban College in South Holland. In 1977, she graduated with her Associates of Arts and Science Degree. A very proud mom celebrated with joy and happiness alongside her family and friends. Her very first job as a R.N. was at St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights for three years. She then went on to work at Ingalls Memorial Hospital in Harvey for the next 11 years until retirement in 1989.

She also enjoyed creating her floral arrangements which led to her entrepreneurial business, Elrene's Floral Design. It was here that her passion and creativity thrived when making arrangements for the church, weddings, trade shows and for her family and friends.

Elrene is preceded in death by her husband, Wardell Johnson Sr.; her parents, Ella Mae Biggs Pointer and Floyd Elder Sr.; her step-father, Andrew Pointer; two sisters, Erma Jean and Tusweet; three brothers, Ben, Al and Orlando; her in-laws, and a host of other close relatives that helped her achieve her dreams and goals.

On August 9, 2018 at 4:45am, Elrene passed from this life, leaving to cherish her memories: her children, Lanere Jones, Cynthia Johnson Smith, Nicole Johnson Harvey, Sheila Johnson Spivey, Wardell (Veronica) Johnson Jr., Mark Brooks; her grandchildren, LaSeante' Thurman, Jeovonte' Jones, Shantez Tolbut, Daniel Smith, Guillermo Tolbert, Nicholes Harvey, Kenny McCaster, Mario Brumley, Latoshia (Josh) Nelson, Terricka Johnson and Tierra Johnson; her sisters, Gloria Chrismon and Lorene Pointer- Pugh; her brother, Floyd Elder Jr., her great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins, godchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

She leaves a SPECIAL THANK YOU TO HER DEAREST FRIENDS: Jackie Frazer who she met in 1969 and worked with for years. William and Martha Gentry who has been there for her since they moved to Dixmoor, Ruby and the Haney's.

TO THE HENS: Connie, Carolyn, Lillie, Pat and Myrtha (who preceded her in death) a love and friendship that never died but got stronger as the years gone by.