



## Willie Walter Johnson

January 12, 1933 - August 9, 2013

### OBITUARY

On Friday, August 9, 2013 the Hudson community lost one of its life- long residents and social activists Mr. Willie Walter Johnson who was affectionately known as “Quonk” or “Walt”. He was born to Lee and Maldothia Johnson on January 12, 1933 in the small historic southern community of Tuskegee, Alabama. Even as a young boy, Walt always exhibited a keen intellect, a quick wit and a strong entrepreneurial spirit. He received his formal education in The Tuskegee Public School System. Walt became an avid reader and sports enthusiast who would actively engage anyone he met in lively and mutually enriching conversations about everything from History and Politics to the Arts and Sports around the globe.

As a result of his “Spirit Of Adventure”, Walt decided to strike out on his own at the young age of seventeen. Although his journey led him to Catskill, New York, it was Hudson, New York that would become his “Beloved Home” for over sixty years. Walt met and married Billie Ann Garland. As a result of their union, he eagerly embraced fatherhood by becoming stepfather to her seven children. He worked for The St. Lawrence Cement Plant in Catskill, New York and retired after twenty three years of service. For over twenty years, Walt worked tirelessly to support the revitalization of the Hudson community. He was the recipient of numerous awards in recognition of his Outstanding Service. He was a member of The Board of Directors of The Columbia

Opportunities Program and The Urban Renewal. He was also actively involved in The Head Start Program, The NAACP, as well as other political and civic organizations. .

Walt was pre-deceased by his beloved wife Billie Ann, two of his stepchildren, Tia Dandridge and Albert Dandridge III, his brothers, Lee Andrew Johnson Jr. and Eddie Arthur Johnson and his sister Delmyra Robertson. He leaves to cherish his memory five step- children: Sheila Chapman, Charles Bouldin, Leta Bailey, Robert Dandridge and Claudette Bouldin; his sisters, Amy Still, Sara Thomas and Lauvia Sherman. He was also the proud grandfather of seventeen grandchildren which include Shanisha Thomas, who provided some Daily Living Support in recent years and great-grandfather of twenty seven great grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory a host of nephews, great nephews, nieces , great nieces and cousins; one son-in-law, Councilman Ronald Bailey of Albany, New York as well as one daughter-in-law, Jacqueline Bouldin. He will be greatly missed by his numerous cherished and life-long friends as well as members of the Hudson community, especially the staff and his neighbors at The Providence Hall Apartments.

A Memorial Service celebrating the “Life of Mr. Willie Walter Johnson” will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at noon at the following location:

Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home  
110 Green Street Hudson, New York 12534

In keeping with Mr. Johnson’s life-long commitment to Civil Rights, the family respectfully requests that no flowers be sent. The family will make a monetary donation (in his name) to The NAACP, one of the primary sponsors of The National Commemoration of The 50th Anniversary Of The March On Washington which will take place on Saturday, August 24, 2013 in Washington, DC. Donations may be made on-line at [www.naACP.org](http://www.naACP.org) or by mail at NAACP, Development Department, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21215

# Tribute Wall

EA

“ Dear Sara, Lauvia, and Amy,

*"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalms 73:26 (ESV)*

*May the blessings from God's heart refresh your hearts today.*

*Edith Audrey*

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**Edith Audrey** - August 29, 2013 at 10:31 AM

YW

“ To my Johnson family,

*Deepest condolences for the loss of our dear Uncle Walter. He will always be remembered for his quick wit, his authentic personality, and his desire to live his life to the fullest. I love Uncle Walter because he was never judgmental; he always related to you with camaraderie and support. We both loved to play the lottery. I only wish that he and I had enough time together to study the lottery and win it before he left us! But, I know he's watching over us and I'm expecting him to send me some lucky numbers from heaven! (smile). I love you and will miss you Uncle Walt!*

*Landy and Family*



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**Yolanda (Landy) Worthy** - August 17, 2013 at 10:05 AM

BB

“ Dear Lauvia, Sara and family,

*You have our heartfelt sympathy and our thoughts are with you.*

*Benjy B.  
Chris L.*

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**Benjy Blatman** - August 16, 2013 at 10:12 AM

TK

“ Dear Lauvia and Family:

*May God comfort you all during this difficult time and may you find peace with the knowledge that your brother, Walter, is resting well now.*

*Love Always,  
Tiawana King and Family*

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**Tiawana King** - August 15, 2013 at 02:53 PM

PB

“ So very sorry to learn of Mr. Johnson's passing. Phyllis Beverly Bell,  
Charlotte,NC

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**Phyllis L. Bell** - August 15, 2013 at 09:31 AM

SH

“ *Lauvia and Sara,*

*My heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. May the Lord grant you peace and strength during this period of your loved one's transition.*

*Shirley N.*

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**Shirley** - August 14, 2013 at 10:21 PM

DS

“ *Rest in Peace Uncle Walter. We will miss you always. Love Kareem*

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**Donald Sherman** - August 14, 2013 at 06:24 PM

WI

“ *My sincere condolences.*

*Willa Ivery - Catskill, NY*

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**Willa Ivery** - August 14, 2013 at 07:13 AM

DE

“ *My deepest sympathies Sara, Lauvia, and family. May your faith, strength, and warm memories bring you comfort. Sending love, prayers, and hugs.*

*Peace and light,  
Dena*

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**Dena** - August 13, 2013 at 05:46 PM