



John Welsey Johnson Sr.

May 20, 1932 - November 20, 2025

John Wesley Johnson, Sr., also known as, “The Midnight Barber”, was born in Paris, Kentucky, on May 20, 1932, to the late Rev. Johnny Johnson and Louella Winn. John peacefully entered into eternal rest on November 20, 2025.

John was a skilled barber and bravely defended his country as a U.S. Army Korean War veteran.

John was a graduate of Dunbar High School and retired from First Security Bank earlier in life.

He was a devoted Deacon of Main Street Baptist Church, a member of the MSBC Choir, and the owner of John Johnson’s Barbershop in Lexington, where he served his community with integrity, pride, and care for over 50 years.

He found joy in singing gospel hymns, especially his favorite, “Shine on Me,” which brought

him deep comfort and peace. To his stepfamily, he was affectionately known as “Papa John,” a

name that reflects the warmth, guidance, and unwavering support he generously gave.

John’s memory will forever be cherished by his devoted wife, Jane P. Donaldson, and his four

children: Cynthia (Darrell) Mefford, Kenneth Johnson Sr., Linda (John) Vandyke, and John (Tracy) Johnson Jr. He is also survived by his five stepchildren: Maurice Donaldson,

Teresa

Donaldson, Michael Donaldson, Letha Donaldson, and Dean Donaldson.

He leaves behind his eight grandchildren—Allison Ross, Julianna Mefford, Kenneth (Serriea)

Johnson Jr., Jasmine (Chris) Ellis, Chad Christopher, Sydney Johnson, Jaxson Johnson, and

Olivia Johnson. John also leaves behind a beloved step-granddaughter, Shamika (Quanto)

Richardson, with whom he shared a uniquely close bond, along with a host of step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and dear friends, all of whom held a special place in his heart.

John is preceded in death by his first wife, the late Anna B. Johnson, infant son, John Johnson, and two brothers, Homer Johnson Sr. and Leon Johnson Sr. Though our hearts ache with this loss, we take comfort in knowing that his spirit lives on through the love he shared and the memories he created.

May we remember John Wesley Johnson, Sr. as a man of unwavering faith, steadfast love, and a gentle, humble spirit. As we grieve, may we find solace in knowing he is at peace in the presence of God, surrounded by eternal love and grace.

Cemetery Details

Cove Haven Cemetery

Lexington, KY

Previous Events

FUNERAL

NOV 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

Main Street Baptist Church
608 W Main St
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 252-3838

Visitation 10 AM until time of Service Saturday November 29, 2025 at Main Street Baptist Church

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Mr Johnson cut at my when I was a little kid*

Jimmie Graves - November 24, 2025 at 08:19 PM