

# A Celebration of Life

Tuskegee Airman

*Deacon Edward Johnson*



**Monday, June 24, 2019 • 11:00 AM**

Friendship Baptist Church  
80 Walnut Street, SW • Atlanta, GA 30314

Officiating  
The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr., Pastor

# Obituary

**Edward Johnson** was born February 26, 1916 in Madison Station, Mississippi, the second of five sons to the late Clarence and Pearl Johnson. He was married to Harriett Robinson Johnson for 52 years until her death on February 7, 2002. He was also preceded in death by his four brothers.

Edward left home at the age of 17 to obtain his high school education at Tuskegee Institute since his local "colored" school only went through 8th grade. He attended 4 years of high school and 4 years of college at Tuskegee Institute as a work-study student, graduating in 1942. By graduation he had already reported for his military duty in the Army Air Corps at Tuskegee. He got permission to walk back from the base to the campus to attend his commencement ceremony and receive his BS degree. He was accepted as an aviation cadet and did well in the program, but was washed out due to strict quotas on how many pilots could graduate in each class. He was valuable enough to be assigned to stay in the pilot program as a ground school instructor. He trained the student pilots to fly by instruments using a simulator called the Link Trainer. He attained the rank of sergeant, continuing as an instructor until after the war, and was discharged in December, 1945.



After his military service Edward pursued a career as an electrician in Atlanta, becoming the first black licensed Master Electrician in the city. In 1947 he started his own business, Johnson and Wood Electric Company, in partnership with a fellow Tuskegee graduate, the late Charles Wood, Sr. Upon retirement he closed the business and continued to do individual small jobs and worked with former employees on larger projects, including the wiring of the Marta train stations. He worked weekends at the Clark Atlanta University power plant for many years until illness forced him to stop at the age of 80. He spent his last years as a resident of Arbor Terrace at Cascade Assisted Living Facility.

Edward gave many years of faithful service to Friendship Baptist Church on the Deacon Board and the Usher Board. The church relied upon him for his electrical and heating expertise, especially in emergencies.

Edward was loved by his family and friends. He will be remembered as a soft spoken, dependable person with a surprising sense of humor. He leaves to cherish his memory, three daughters, Ms. Julie Johnson, Atlanta, Georgia, Mrs. Edna J. Sartor (Dr. Curtis J. Sartor, Jr.) Elgin, Illinois, and Mrs. Brenda J. Crawford (Reverend Ronald Crawford), Bowie, Maryland; half-brother, Clarence Johnson, Jr., Jackson, Mississippi; three grandsons, Vincent Crawford, Philip Crawford (Tasha), and Curtis Anthony Sartor, III (Nichole); five great grandchildren, a godson, Trent Floyd, and a host of other relatives and friends.



# *Order of Service*

The Reverend Richard W. Wills, Sr., Officiating

**Organ Prelude.....***Ave Maria* ..... Dr. James Abbington  
Director of Music Ministries and Church Organist

**Processional.....***For All The Saints*.....AAHH #339

**Invocation.....**Evangelist Edna J. Sartor

**Hymnal Choir .....***What a Friend We Have in Jesus* ..... AAHH #430

**Scripture .....**Reverend Stella Floyd

The Old Testament .....Psalm 23

The New Testament .....1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

**Handbell Solo .....***Sweet Sweet Spirit*..... Deacon Trent Floyd

## Reflections

Friendship Baptist Church .....Deacon Earle D. Clowney

Tuskegee Airmen .....William Patterson, President  
Atlanta Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Historian Friend..... Mrs. Zellie Orr

Family (Daughter) ... .....Mrs. Brenda J. Crawford

Family (Son-in-Law).....Dr. Curtis J. Sartor, Jr.  
Pastor, Come As You Are Church, Elgin, IL

**Congregational Hymn.....***Blessed Assurance*.....AAHH #508

**Eulogy .....**Reverend Ronald E. Crawford  
Pastor, New Vision Church, Bowie, MD

**Organ Hymn Medley.....***Precious Lord, It Is Well With My Soul.* ..... Dr. Abbington

**Recessional.....***When We All Get to Heaven* ..... AAHH #594

## *Interment*

Carver Memorial Gardens

350 Upper Riverdale Rd. • Jonesboro GA 30237



**Honorary Pallbearers**  
Atlanta Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

**Pallbearers**  
Deacons of Friendship Baptist Church  
Flower Bearers, Deaconesses of Friendship Baptist Church

**Acknowledgement**

The family of the late Mr. Edward Johnson acknowledges with grateful appreciation the many kind expressions of sympathy and love extended to us during this time. May God forever bless each and every one of you.

**Carl M. Williams Funeral Directors, Inc.**

*"The Tradition Continues"*

**Carl M. Williams**

Licensed Funeral Director & Embalmer

492 Larkin Street, S.W. • Atlanta, GA 30313