

*The Celebration of Life of a Great
Omaha Humanitarian January 27,
2019 on Sunday 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm*

IN MEMORY

Mary Magellene Johnson
December 4, 1938 - January 20, 2019



**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A GREAT
OMAHA HUMANITARIAN DURING OMAHA
NEBRASKA'S RACE RIOT OF THE 1960'S
& FRIEND TO CORETTA SCOTT KING
AFTER DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S
ASSASSINATION IN 1968.**



Roeder Mortuary
4932 Ames Ave.

Omaha, Nebraska, 68104
Elder Ronnie Hill officiating
Pastor Elijah L. Hill, Eulogy



Order of Celebration

Mary Magellene Murphy –Johnson
Roeder Mortuary, 4932 Ames Ave., Omaha, Nebraska, 68104
Date: Sunday January 27, 2019 at 3:00 pm
Wake: Sunday January 27, 2019 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Elder Ronnie D. Hill – Officiating

Opening Prayer.....Guest Minister

Song of Comfort.....Mahalia Jackson

Scripture Reading:

Old Testament.....Elder Ronnie D. Hill

New Testament.....

Solo.....Michelle Ford Collier

Remarks/Words of Reflection (2 mins only).....

Reading of Obituary.....

Solo.....Michelle Ford Collier

Eulogy.....Pastor Elijah L. Hill

Recessional

Obituary

Mary Magellene Murphy (Johnson) was born in December 1, 1938, Kenansville, North Carolina on this date to Alberta Lee White and James Author Bryant in the Duplin county farming community. Her mother Alberta Lee White met a military man an Omahan, Rev. John Lee White they were married and moved back to his home town of Omaha, Nebraska in early 1940's.

Mary was raised up from a tender age in the Omaha, Nebraska community she attended Long School, and it was there she met Ernest E. Hill they were High School sweethearts later they married had conceived six of her eight children. They lived in the North Omaha Nebraska Area, and later they lived in what was formerly the Hill Top Projects. Mary was very smart in school graduated at the top of her class, and was very active, lively and outgoing, in early parades was known as High School band as a baton leader in the late 50's in the North Omaha community. Mary was an artist she loved to paint draw, and she was an amazing seamstress designing your own clothes, dresses and hats. Later she attended beauty school in Omaha at Athouse Beauty School when it was located on 24th than Pratt St, and later she graduated as a beautician, and started her own beauty shop in the basement of her home located near 28th Meredith St in the mid 60's in North Omaha.

Many families within the North Omaha communities looked to her like a Mother Teresa having a heart of gold willing to assist any family in need with clothes, food, shelter. She would solicit the city of Omaha to allow her to use vacant lots to plant gardens with her children and other community volunteers to provide free food give-aways for the North Omaha community. To accomplish this task, she developed and allied herself with one of Omaha's first female Jewish Millionaire, Mrs. Blumkin nationally known founder of the Nebraska Furniture Mart, current owned by Warren Buffett resident of Omaha one of the riches men in the world. When she first founded her mission Mrs. Blumkin would give her the items, she needed to assist her in furnishing her mission, was one of Mary's biggest financial supporters for the local Moses & The Ten Commandment Fellowship Welfare Mission. I remember many times my mother would take me with her go would to 72nd Dodge to visit Mrs. Blumkin would tell her "Mary I love the work you are doing to help people take whatever you need, I believe in the work you are doing in helping the needy in North Omaha."

After Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death in April of 1968 Omaha's North Omaha community was on fire as many other black communities throughout America. Mary knew there would be many in need because of this plight, so she asked Mrs. Blumkin to assist her in contacting others in the Jewish community to do something positive, and socially uplifting as a result of the North Omaha Community being economically devastated by the race riots of the mid 60's. Jewish business owners that knew Mrs. Blumkin that owned businesses properties near the 24th Lake area who had to leave their properties as a result of the Omaha Race Riots of the 60's allowed Mary's Mission to house food and clothes in three locations for needy families in the North Omaha African American community.

Obituary

She started the beginning of a something like a Goodwill gift shop near 24th and Lake to sell some of the clothes given to her by the Omaha Jewish community to raise funds for Moses & The Ten Commandment Fellow Welfare Mission. After the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in April of 1968, Mary was touched by Coretta Scott King's loss of her husband, and sold all her humanitarian projects in Omaha, and moved to Atlanta, Georgia with her six children to be an encouragement to Coretta Scott King and her four children. We attended and joined Ebenezer Baptist church where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., father was the pastor after his assassination.

God worked it out that Mary Hill became fast friends with Coretta, Coretta admired my mother love for community and her love for all those six kids that tagged along with her, Mary loved to laugh, be happy and enjoy life, and she tried to encourage Coretta to laugh be happy and focus on her vision.

In 1968, Coretta Scott King had Ebenezer Baptist Church to adopt our family, and they got us an apartment to live in, and we were selected to be the family that they provided our Christmas food and gifts for the Christmas of 1968. I remember mom standing next to Coretta Scott King me between the both, my mother asked Corretta, Coretta my son Elijah I keep getting some many prophecies about him being a proper child or prophet what do you see."

Coretta told her I see him becoming one of our great leaders." Mom wrote her first book while in Atlanta, Georgia in 1968, called, "Sell What You Have and Give To the Poor", Coretta Scott King loved it being about the principles of the beloved community that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke about his final vision was the "Poor People Campaign". Coretta got Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,'s secretary to type of the 40-page booklet for Mary, and Coretta's secretary finalized they are typing before it went to print.

At the age of 30 years old in the city of Atlanta, Georgia, she started her book with this opening statement: " My fellow man, Christian sisters and brothers of this nation, my firm conviction is that America as a whole will never experience the blessing God has for her until she learns the art of sharing and giving to others."

AMERICA has left God and refuses to help her poor, but God has heard from, prayers and tears of people, even our ancestors who were in slavery, refusing to stop praying. I know that God, the great Jehovah, I AM, has heard their cry, and has come to visit our country with great peace, as the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., expressed in "I Have a Dream" and Free at Last" message for all, which I call a prophesy, and true prophecies always come to pass."

In addition, to Mary having a great love for her children she had a heart of gold for others everyone she met was no stranger to her, and in 1964 started a local Omaha mission to serve the poor and underserved community called, The Moses & Ten Commandments Fellowship Welfare Mission it was located in a house on 25th than Manderson. Mary was known throughout the Omaha, Nebraska community as a great humanitarian to the poor and needy families of North Omaha during Omaha's troubled times of the race riots of the mid 60's.

Obituary

The Goodwin Barber shop located on 24th Spencer were State Senator Enie Chambers worked mom would take me and my brother Ernest to let Chambers cut our hair Senator Chambers and mom went to school together and were adamant about the misuse of police violence in North Omaha. Mary decided to assist several of the Black Panthers to hide out in her mission on 24th than Henderson as a natural location when they were being pursued by the Omaha police department during the riots.

Omaha community leaders like Mary and State Senator Chambers were targets of the federal government Senator Chambers was placed on FBI file list, and Mary after returning back from Atlanta, Georgia a contract was put out on her life and her children were taken from her they became ward's of the state of Nebraska for several years she attempted to get them back as a result of being terrorized, beaten, assaulted for several years she had a nervous break down, having lost her kids who was the power of her emotional strength. This was a repeat of history in North Omaha racism had used the system as with Malcolm X's mother being pressured having lost her children to the state to break up and separate kids some the strength and legacy of great leaders would not translate into their children.

She struggled with but later focused on investing quality time with her grand child, and great grand children to making each one of them feel as if they were special encouraging them to become the best that they could be. As a result of Mary pouring This special attention and love into her children, grand children, and great grand kids they all felt that she loved them in a special way, but they did not know that she loved them all the same way. Many community people admired Mary for her courage as a single mother to take on loving the whole North Omaha community in her younger days, who showed unconditional love to many in Omaha who admired her.

Mary always use to say the struggles and traumatic journey I have been through her last wish was to have a movie written on her life to be an uplift and encouragement to those that came after her. After 2 years Mary came back to Omaha, Nebraska to live after living in Atlanta, Georgia during this time, Mary transitioned from this life in the Omaha Nebraska North Omaha on January 20, 2019, Sunday at 12:07 am, she was 80 years old. She is survived by her sisters Brenda Lee White and Angel Lee White and brother James Lee White all residence of Omaha, Nebraska. Her children daughters Anita Gail Hill (Omaha, NE), Trina E. Hill (Austin, TX), Dorcas Hill, and husband Ronnie Hill (Son-in-law) (Omaha, NE), Genevia Hill (Omaha, NE), Angela Owens-Hill (Arlington, TX), Azalia Owens-Johnson (Arlington, TX), and sons Ernest E. Hill, Jr (already deceased), and Pastor Elijah L. Hill, and wife Waveney Hill (Daughter-in-law) (Atlanta, GA), she had 23 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren.

The funeral arrangements will take place Sunday January 27, 2019, at 3:00pm to 5:00pm, at Roeder Mortuary, 4932 Ames Ave., Omaha, Nebraska, 68104, and her eulogy and officiating of her last service will be conducted by her last living son Pastor Elijah L. Hill, Pastor of Perfecting The Kingdom International, in Atlanta, Georgia.



