



Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan

September 14, 1961 - November 7, 2022

Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan of Colorado Springs, CO transitioned to be with our Heavenly Father at 5:07 a.m. MST on Monday, November 7, 2022 surrounded by family at Penrose Hospital, Colorado Springs, CO.

Avis was born to proud parents Gairline & Sterling Johnson on September 14, 1961 in Peoria, IL. Being the baby girl of five children, she was the “apple of their eye” holding a special place in their hearts. Avis confessed that she loved the Lord and was baptized at Mt. Zion Baptist Church at an early age in Peoria and attended services there. Inheriting the voice of a songbird from her father, she was a member of their gospel choir until her move to Colorado Springs.

Avis met and married Howard A. "Sonny" Duncan, Jr. and they celebrated 31 years of marriage. After their marriage they moved to Colorado to work with the USA Junior Olympic Boxing team. They enjoyed extensive travel with the boxers to places like Cuba, Greece, Michigan, Russia, the Bahamas, Atlanta, Puerto Rico, Australia, London and Rio de Janeiro. He preceded her in death on December 26, 2019.

Avis was a proud 1979 graduate of Peoria Manual High School participating as a cheerleader, a 1982 graduate of Midstate College and she received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Regis University in 1999.

Avis had gainful employment at Farmers Insurance and began her time in management with Time Warner (now known as Spectrum) in 2002 from which she retired in July of 2022 after becoming ill.

Having a beautiful voice as a young woman, she was often encouraged to try out for reality shows such as Star Search and American Idol. She also participated in several beauty contests as a youth, winning the local Elks beauty queen contest. Avis had a gardener's thumb with the ability to grow flourishing green plants. She also enjoyed knitting, sewing, and crafts. Avis was an avid bingo player, often traveling to remote Indian reservations or Las Vegas to engage in a tournament. She loved to roller skate as a youth and continued to do so as an adult. She liked to read, cook, and enjoyed home improvement...always with a tape measure in hand. But, most of all she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

To celebrate her life and cherish her memories are her loving and devoted son Andrew (Jennifer) Johnson of Colorado Springs, CO; stepdaughters Kathie Reed of Waterloo, IA, Tara Duncan of Galesburg, IL, and Davonne Duncan of Orange, NJ; her mother Girline Johnson of Peoria, IL; sisters Regina (Keith) Hayes of Los Angeles, CA and Lynnette Lee of Peoria, IL; and one brother Lester (Cassandra) Johnson of Austin, TX. She is also survived by her grandchildren who held a very special place in her heart: Kilara Olson, Andrew Johnson II, Josiah Johnson, Arayah Johnson, and Micah Johnson all of Colorado Springs, CO; her lifelong friend Tonya Strong of Peoria, IL; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who loved her dearly. She is preceded in death by her husband Howard Duncan; stepson Howard "Skip" Duncan III; father Sterling Johnson; mother-in-law Louise Duncan; brother Henry Humbles; nephew Vilancio Johnson, and brothers-in-law Carlos Duncan and Ronnie Lee.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held on December 10, 2022 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 305 S. Madison Park Terrace, Peoria, IL 61605. A gathering of family and friends will commence at 10:30 a.m. with services beginning at 11:00 a.m. Rev. James Flemming will officiate. A repast will be held immediately following at George Washington Carver Community Center, 710 W. Third St. (Honorary Percy Baker Avenue) in Peoria. Avis has requested her ashes be spread amongst her most favorite places.

Memorial contributions can be directed to the family for an educational fund for her grandchildren.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at

[SimonsMortuary.com](https://www.SimonsMortuary.com).

The service will be live streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-232095303487150>

promptly AT THE TIME OF THE SERVICE (Central Time). Due to Covid-19, social distancing is encouraged to be consistent with recommendations from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), funeral home directors have been instructed and should follow CDC guidelines on gatherings, including those directly related to funerals, visitations, or graveside services.

*In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them).

*It is our responsibility as Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 10. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
305 S. MADISON PARK TERRACE
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-4379

Celebration of Life

DEC 10. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
305 S. MADISON PARK TERRACE
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-4379

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan*



Simons Mortuary - December 12, 2022 at 12:19 PM



“ *Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Avis. My deepest and most sincere sympathy is sent to the Johnson and Duncan families. I am truly so for your loss*



Corrie Jackson - December 30, 2022 at 03:05 PM

FP

“ *Avis was always with a smile on her face that was infectious. She was a very loving mother and grandmother for sure! She will be missed by all who know her. The tribute was very touching and reflects only part of her wonderful life. I feel blessed to have known her.*

Frank Podczervinski - December 10, 2022 at 10:55 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Avis Johnson-Duncan DVD*



Simons Mortuary - December 09, 2022 at 04:51 PM

JK

Although it has been a few years, I wanted to pay my respects to my friend Avis. I was not aware of her passing and it saddens me as I was not able to say so long. We met at the cable company, she was a hard one to break, she was so sincere and serious I'm her job and position, and so respected. Something clicked between us, and we were soul friends. She cld talk to me and vise versa and we never judged we only saw eye to eye. Her and sunny surprised me at a restaurant for my birthday only they and my husband knew, but it touched my heart. Avis loved her grandchildren she spoke of them often, they were her heart. I left the company and we did not keep in touch, I am so sorry for that. Rest in peace Avis, I love you and think of you often. No more pain my friend, God has you now.

Jacqueline L keyes - January 28 at 06:38 PM



“ I want to share my condolences with the Johnson family on the sad loss of a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend to so many. My God rest her soul in His heavenly arms as she is now truly in Paradise.

Dennis Mapes - December 08, 2022 at 07:53 PM

SS

“ Can vividly remember the day that we first met it was like we were brother and sister from day one.
I remember coming over to your place with Regina and talking for hours. Your smile, your laughter and unbridled independence was your trademark.
Rest well Lil Sis. You lived out loud with confidence; now it's time to Rest In Peace.
Stephen J Sutton

Stephen Sutton - December 08, 2022 at 07:42 PM

YS

“ Your Siblings purchased the Reflections of Glory Wreath for the family of Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan.



Your Siblings - December 08, 2022 at 05:11 PM

BC

“ BRENDA CAYSON lit a candle in memory of Avis Johnson-Duncan



BRENDA CAYSON - December 08, 2022 at 02:17 PM

YN

“ *Your Nephews purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan.*



Your Nephews - December 06, 2022 at 09:59 PM

YN

“ *Your Niece's purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan.*



Your Niece's - December 06, 2022 at 09:56 PM

AM

“ *Rest peacefully Avis*



Angie Martin - December 03, 2022 at 10:12 AM

PH

“ To my Family, my prayers go out to [all], This is hard ,for me too...AVIS was not just My Cousin, she was my friend ! We talked often ,we had fun, we laughed, we went places, we confided with each other...We talked about The LORD, Our last conversation was about a morning prayer/text that I sent her on You Tube... titled SEEK GOD FIRST... It spoke on the topic ; THE GOD OF HOPE ... And her last reply to me was [THE GOD OF HOPE FILLS ME WITH ALL JOY& ANY PEACE... To Aunt Gipeline & All of My Family... Rest on/in God's word Psalm 116;15 It says Precious in the sight of the LORD, is the death of his saints. ! Love Phil ...

Phillip Hickman - December 03, 2022 at 08:19 AM

DM

My prayers and deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Avis. I was shocked when I saw the post on Facebook. Rest now cousin in your Heavenly Fathers Arms.

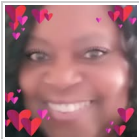
Deborah McCree - December 09, 2022 at 12:47 AM

PH

“ Phillip Hickman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Avis V. Johnson-Duncan



Phillip Hickman - December 03, 2022 at 07:52 AM



“ So sadden by the news. Rest in peace my school days friend. Avis had a beautiful spirit and voice of an angel. I send my condolences and prayers to her family.



Darlene Horton - December 02, 2022 at 10:10 AM

SC

“ *Avis was absolutely beautiful...inside & out with such an angelic voice!!!
Our Prayers for the entire Family with heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy.
Sherry Carter-Allen & Family*



Sherry Carter-Allen - December 01, 2022 at 09:29 PM

CL

“ *RIHP AVIS! AVIS WAS A SONG-BIRD WHO LOVED TO SING AND THAT SHE DID! YOU WILL BE MISSED BUT EVER FORGOTTEN! MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY!*



Carolyn Lobdell-Samuels - December 01, 2022 at 03:18 PM