

Obituary

Dan Ezell Johnson was born May 24, 1945 in Lexington, Mississippi to the union of the late Sam and Cora Lee Smith-Johnson. To this union four children were born. Later in 1957 his family relocated to Detroit, Michigan.

Dan was baptized at an early age and attended Alpha and Omega Spiritual Church of Christ under the leadership of the Rev. Zola Robinson, where he joined the Youth Department and sang in the Young Adult Choir.

Dan received his formal education in the Detroit Public Schools where he graduated from Northern High School. Upon completion of high school, he was later employed by General Motors Chevrolet Gear and Axle which later became American Axle where he retired on March 1, 2003, at the age of 58 with 38 years of service.

On September 28, 1974 he was joined in marriage to Vanessa Lane and moved to Clinton Township, Michigan. To this union two children were born, Scott and Adam. Later, his wife adopted their nephew, Justin and raised him along with his cousins.

Dan comes from a very loving family. They traveled across the country for many years, visiting and loving on their family members by keeping their family relationships strong.

Dan led a very simple life. He was direct, had an established routine, was soft spoken, and a man of very few words. He never complained, even when his wife opened their home to homeschool children of all ages which later became Sunshine Academy (CTC) where he became the principal.

Upon retirement his hobbies included reading the newspaper and shopping (which he did every day). He also taught himself to cook which he became very good at. He was a loyal fan to the Pistons, Lions and the Dodgers, regardless of how bad they were.

God saw his road was getting weary, so he did what he knew was best. He came and stood beside him and whispered, "Come and Rest". He departed this life on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. His son Adam, his brother William, and their mother Cora and father Sam preceded him in death.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Vanessa of 47 years, his children, Scott (Tanisha) Johnson of Chesterfield, Danny Johnson and David Johnson of Detroit and Nicole Phillips and Derrick Phillips of Redford Township; his adopted nephew Justin Lane of Harrison Township.; his sister Marie Johnson of Detroit; his brother Sam (Karen) Johnson of Dalton, Illinois; his brother-in-law Richard Lane of Detroit; two sisters-in-law, LeLeith Williams of Clinton Township and Victoria Lane of Roseville; five grandchildren, David Jr., Endaysha, Aysha, Christian, and Sonarrah; and a host nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.