



## James Weldon Johnson-Gittens

September 26, 1920 - June 25, 2009

On June 25, 2009 James Weldon Johnson, Sr. departed this life and went on to glory to be with his Lord and Savior. He was born on September 26, 1920 in The Republic of Panama to the late Fitzallen and Edith Johnson. Always the hard worker, James made a valiant effort to provide for his immediate family, extended family, special adopted daughters whom he called and treated as his own as well as several neighborhood children who needed assistance. James worked as a Launch Operator on the Panama Canal where he retired after over 30 years of dedicated service.

A self-taught tailor, furniture upholsterer and radio/television repairman, James took on odd-jobs and sewed for others in an effort to meet the needs of his family. He originally came to the United States in 1975 and settled in Brooklyn, New York. James was a true “jack of all trades”. Despite being retired, he went to Apex Technical School in New York to become a master welder to financially assist in bringing his children to America. His intention was to ensure his children, grandchildren and future generations would have an opportunity for a better life.

Affectionately known to his friends as “Johnny”, James was a loving, family oriented, Good Samaritan with a generous heart. He always went above and beyond to ensure everyone was happy and content. James was an excellent provider who lived for his children. He was the portrait of a real man who touched the lives of everyone he came in contact with. Most importantly, in his later life, James accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He

was preceded in death by his sister Winifred Clark, brother Winston Johnson, infant daughter Patricia Johnson, two sons Roy Johnson and Roberto Johnson and two grandsons Eduardo Ward and Sean Jemmott.

Left to cherish his memory are his AMOR Judith Johnson of Portsmouth, VA; four sons - James Johnson, Jr. (Anays) of San Antonio, TX; Siebert Ward (Patricia) of Suffolk, VA; Harold Ward of Portsmouth, VA and Dantes Johnson of Atlanta, GA; eight daughters - Josephine Jemmott of San Antonio, TX; Jean Ashby of Chesapeake, VA; Joan Clark of Portsmouth, VA; Rosa Jackson (Lincoln) of Portsmouth, VA; Patricia Robinson (Dwight) of Portsmouth, VA; Melva Johnson of Portsmouth, VA; Dana Harris (Rogelio, Sr.) of Portsmouth, VA; Fulvia Mercedes de la Ossa (Raul) and Marcela Johnson both of The Republic of Panama; one sister Caroline Anita James of the Republic of Panama; a devoted nephew Newton Buchner (Mattie) of Brooklyn, NY; forty-four grandchildren; sixty-seven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren and a loving host of adopted daughters, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was loved dearly by his family and will be greatly missed. His legacy will surely live on with those who cherish his memory. Vivir, sentir y morir! Descanse en paz!

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grove Church  
5910 West Norfolk Road  
Portsmouth, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of James Weldon Johnson-Gittens



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - June 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Grandpa I have finally worked up the courage and strength to talk to you! I miss you so very much that words cannot describe! I know GOD makes no mistakes and everything is done in his perfect will but sometimes I can't help but question him! I know you are resting in a better place smiling down upon me! I can't wait to see your smiling face again and here your voice! You will always live on in me and the rest of your family! I love you and make sure you find a nice spot for me up there! Love You!!##imported-begin##Shavonne Mosley##imported-end##

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July 27, 2009 at 01:44 PM



“ My Deepest Sympathy in your time of sorrow. God Be with you.##imported-begin##Chaundra Morton##imported-end##

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July 05, 2009 at 10:30 PM



“ I would like to express my condolences to the entire family..My prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##F Cuffee##imported-end##

July 01, 2009 at 12:58 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to your entire family - and what a wonderful example of "family" you are. May the rich legacy of your grandfather live on forever through each of you.##imported-begin##Nathaniel & Shirley Jackson##imported-end##

June 30, 2009 at 11:31 PM



“ I'm grateful to God for the last 4 years we got to spend with Grandpa. God does all things well. While our hearts are heavy with the thought of him being gone – we are REJOICING that he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and is resting in Heaven now.

Grandpa – you taught me to be all about family and no matter what we are to stay united. While we may choose our friends, God chooses our family. What a privilege it is to be a part of such a great legacy. Love you much....see you later!##imported-begin##Tanisha Jackson##imported-end##

June 30, 2009 at 10:02 AM



“ He was a great man and I am proud to have known him and that he was my uncle.##imported-begin##Ernesto R Johnson##imported-end##

June 29, 2009 at 01:33 PM



“ To my grandfather, James W. Johnson, portrait of a real man. A man that would do anything for his family. Just being in the slightest reflection of him, is to be what a man is. You're in heaven now, sitting next to God, now. You are home. I love u for all eternity, grandpa.

Con Carino,

Juju##imported-begin##Rogelio Harris Jr.##imported-end##

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June 29, 2009 at 01:26 PM



“ With deepest sympathy from the Weeks family (Damaris Weeks-Smellie; Jelenia Weeks-Pena, Rubia V. Weeks and Aubrey N. Weeks) "THOSE WHOSE TRUST IS IN THE LORD, SHALL SOAR WITH EAGLE'S WINGS"##imported-begin##RUBIA V. WEEKS##imported-end##

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June 29, 2009 at 12:49 PM



“ I would like to express my condolences to the family..My prayers are with you all..If you need any thing please feel free to let me know. Krystal, Pat and Tee##imported-begin##Krystal Pannell##imported-end##

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June 28, 2009 at 07:57 PM



“ Grandpa I Love you.I will miss you soooo much.I will cherish the memories & many laughs that we have had.

*Rest in peace##imported-begin##Ofelia Godwin##imported-end##*

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June 27, 2009 at 05:27 PM