



Hayward Lee Johnson

February 14, 1949 - January 13, 2016

Hayward Lee Johnson was born in Austin, Texas on February 14, 1949, to the union of George Winfield Johnson and Edna Ester Johnson. He was the youngest of six children and due to Edna's poor health after his birth, he was raised by his mother's cousin, Josephine Sneed in St. Mary's Colony, Texas and later during his high school years, in the family of and W A and Alma DeShay, in Bastrop, Texas.

As a child, Hayward attended St. Mary Baptist Church where he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized. He also found great pleasure singing in the church choir.

Hayward attended Emile High School, a formerly segregated school in the Bastrop School District serving only African-American students, where he played football and later enjoyed playing drums in the marching band. He graduated from Emile High School in 1968. After graduation he went to Gary Job Corps in San Marcos for training in operating heavy equipment.

In April of 1969, Hayward was drafted into the US Army. He originally served as a Prop and Rotor Repair Man, but while in country, he volunteered to serve as a Door Gunner with the 128th Assault Helicopter Group. He survived two helicopter crashes, one of which left him Missing in Action for many months. He has honorably discharged in February of 1972.

In June of 1969, Hayward married Sarah Carter and to this union three children were born; Kassie Annette, Bridget Latrice, and Hayward Lynn.

After returning from Vietnam, Hayward worked for construction and trucking companies including Alonzo Marshall and the Marshall Trucking Company, JTM, McKinney and James, Ranger, DayCo and Lewis Contractors.

Hayward earned the nickname “George” from his trucking friends after the colorful character of “Chicken George” from the movie Roots. He always had a positive attitude, a great sense of humor, and even though his first job was picking cotton in the fields, and surviving through many terrible situations in Vietnam, he never lost his wonderful smile or his faith in his Savior, Jesus Christ. He will truly be missed by his friends and family.

Hayward is preceded in death by his parents George and Edna Johnson, his sister Freddie Ruth Johnson, and his daughter, Haylee Johnson. He is survived by his siblings, Shelly B. Johnson; Perris, California; Lula J. Bullock; Austin, Texas; Vertis “Apple” Williams (Jimmie); Olympia, Washington and Richard Johnson; Killeen, Texas. His children Kassie (Napoleon); Houston, Texas; Bridget; New York, New York; and Hayward; Austin, Texas; his grandchildren, Sammantha Johnson, Joshua Johnson, and Jeremiah Johnson, and his latest acquisition, constant companion, best friend, and love of his life, Lauren Nash.

If you have a special memory, funny story, favorite photo, or just something you would like to share with the family about your memories of Hayward “George” Johnson, please send them to Lauren Nash, 1014 Whitley Drive, Leander, TX 78641. Your memories will be made into a special scrapbook for his grandchildren.

In lieu of Flowers, please consider making a donation to his grandson's future education fund which can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/5pjtrw7p>

Previous Events

Pre Celebration Family Visitation

JAN **15.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.
1300 East 12th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Celebration Service

JAN **16.** 3:00 PM (CT)

King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.
1300 East 12th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Tribute Wall



“ *Hayward Lee Johnson*

October 06, 2023 at 07:08 AM



“ *I didn't know George for long. We met through Lauren. He was always a pleasure to be around and it was evident that he was a contented man. His strength and peace of mind as he coped with the progression of the cancer is a reflection of his faith and personality and I am grateful that we met.*

Trisha - January 18, 2016 at 11:16 AM