

## Devine

*Life is like a spiritual package of the unbeknownst  
Flowing down a river of existence,  
Eventually unraveling a precious gift  
Engulfed by the Holy Ghost*

*In this case I speak of Helen Johnson,  
A beautifully, amazing baby girl  
Whom in her first moment of consciousness  
Had begun to explore the world*

*Had a knack for art,  
And was crafty to say the least  
Took no mess, sometimes quick to react,  
But on the surface she was so sweet*

*That sugar will then be multiplied  
By two girls of our own  
Followed by three granddaughters and five grandsons  
In which she protected like a queen on her throne*

*Though you've transitioned,  
We celebrate you and the memories you left behind  
Your spirit will forever live in us all  
Because your energy is that divine*

-Your son, Shaun Jackson

## *Acknowledgments*

The family of **HELEN ELIZABETH JOHNSON**, wishes to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during this difficult time.

*Arrangements Entrusted to:*

  
**BENTA'S**  
Funeral Home, Inc.  
630 St. Nicholas Avenue  
New York, NY 10030  
Phone: (212) 281-8850  
Fax: (212) 234-3600

## *Celebrating the Life of*



## *Helen Elizabeth Johnson*

SUNRISE: AUGUST 15, 1964 - SUNSET: JANUARY 22, 2025

## *Homegoing Service*

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 • 12:00 P.M.

**BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME**  
630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10030  
**REV. KEITH DENNIS, Officiating**  
**ALSON FARLEY, Musician**

# Order of Service

## ORGAN PRELUDE

SONG SELECTION..... “SMILE”  
ALSON FARLEY

## SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT..... PSALMS 23  
NEW TESTAMENT..... PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

PRAYER OF COMFORT..... REV. KEITH DENNIS

SONG SELECTION..... “SPIRIT”  
ALSON FARLEY

OBITUARY..... KEYSHA MOULTRIE

REFLECTIONS.....FAMILY & FRIENDS  
(TWO MINUTES PLEASE)

SONG SELECTION.....“SAY YES”  
ALSON FARLEY

EULOGY..... REV. KEITH DENNIS

COMMITTAL & BENECTION..... REV. KEITH DENNIS

## FINAL VIEWING

## RECESSIONAL

# Obituary

HELEN ELIZABETH JOHNSON (AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS “BIG MAMA”)

HELEN ELIZABETH JOHNSON, lovingly known as “Big Mama,” was born on August 15, 1964, in Harlem, New York, to her proud parents, James Abel and Dolores Larcus. The youngest of six children, Helen carried a bright spirit and a heart full of love throughout her life.

Helen’s educational journey began at P.S. 46, followed by I.S. 10 for middle school, and she later graduated from Martin Luther King High School. Her passion for learning led her to Touro College, where she earned her Associate’s degree in 1999. Determined to further her education, she went on to achieve her Bachelor’s degree in Human Services in 2001. With her dedication and expertise, Helen secured a position at Touro College, where she served as Assistant Director of Admissions, helping countless students navigate their educational paths.

On November 19, 1996, Helen married the love of her life, Van Johnson, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories.

Helen’s interests were as vibrant as her personality. She found joy in painting, fishing, cooking, and, most of all, shopping. A gifted artist, she loved expressing herself through painting and crafting, relishing the magic of creating something beautiful from nothing. Beyond her hobbies, Helen’s true passion was serving others. She had a generous heart, always willing to lend a helping hand—even if it meant giving the shirt off her back. Her selflessness and compassion touched the lives of all who knew her.

Helen’s legacy of love and kindness lives on through her daughters, Sophia Jackson and Sophelia Ritter, and her beloved son-in-law, Shaun Jackson, whom she cherished as her own. She was the proud grandmother of seven adoring grandchildren: Saniya “Sugar” McMillian, Sharif “Man Man” Nickens, Phoenix “Peanut,” Pharrell “Cashew” Brown, Shyne Jackson, Saige-Ivory “Big Boobee” Jackson, and Akira “Lil Boobee” Fox. She also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends who will forever hold her memory close to their hearts.

The family of Helen Johnson extends their deepest gratitude for the overwhelming love, support, and kindness shown during this time of loss. Your prayers, condolences, and acts of generosity are truly appreciated as we celebrate the life and legacy of a remarkable woman. Helen’s love, wisdom, and warmth will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

