

The Alma Times

Latrell Johnson Bennett

Latrell Johnson Bennett, age 87, passed away June 11, 2008 at Coastal Manor Nursing Home after a valiant struggle against cancer.

Ms. Bennett was a native of Bacon County but she had lived the last 68 years of her life in Hinesville Georgia. She was a fighter and woman of independence in every sense of the word having battled polio as a child and three subsequent battles with Cancer over three decades. Her mind held out until the end but her body could not resist this latest assault upon her.

Latrell was born January 28, 1921 to Ophelia Andrews and John Ashley Johnson. She attended Rockingham School and Bacon County High School with honors despite her many trips to Shriners Hospital for treatment as a child. She also attended Draughns Business College, now known as South College in Savannah.

Latrell was a retired civil servant from Ft. Stewart Georgia where she served admirably for 34 years. She succeeded early on in her work and was rewarded with promotions in a field that normally did not see many women at the Management level. She was a leader and courageous innovator, qualities that served her well and proved to be so very valuable in the early stages of development of the installation. Her importance to the post was magnified when she became the Chief of Classification for Civilian Personnel during the Korean War and up through the Vietnam Conflict in which her analytical skills proved vital in supporting the strength of our soldiers and our Nation.

She was an active and loved member of the First United Methodist Church in Hinesville Georgia where she taught Sunday school and soon became President of the Bertha Martin Circle for many years and then President of the United Methodist Women for eight years. She loved life, was a good friend to many, did her own yard work and helped others until she was stricken with this latest bout of illness. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents Ophelia Andrews Johnson and John Johnson of Bacon County and her beloved husband James Walter Bennett and four brothers: Theophilus M. Johnson, John Orville Johnson, Woodrow Lawsing Johnson, and Coyette Adolph Johnson.

Mrs. Bennett leaves to cherish her memories her only child Carolyn Bennett Darsey and son-in-law Jimmy Darsey of Hinesville along with many nieces and nephews and several great nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Troy Johnson, Donald Johnson, Johnny Johnson, Woody Johnson, Jonathan Johnson, Mark Lee, Pete Lee and Troy Lee. Honorary pallbearers will be the United Methodist Women.

Visitation will be from 6 till 8 pm Friday, June 13, 2008, at Carter Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 14, 2008 at the First United Methodist Church in Hinesville with the Reverend Doug Force and Reverend Dave Hansen officiating. Followed by internment at The Rose Hill Cemetery in Alma at 3:30 pm where she will rest next to her husband.

Carter Funeral Home Oglethorpe Chapel was in charge of the arrangements.
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