



## Barbara L. Johnson

November 20, 1927 - June 13, 2015

Barbara Lorine Nichols Johnson was born November 20, 1927 in Birmingham, Ala., to Robert Fitzsimmons and Lula Henderson Nichols. She was the third of five daughters.

At a young age, her family moved to Hanceville, Ala. where she was educated, graduating from Hanceville High School in 1946. She attended Athens State University and later moved to Birmingham, where she began her career.

In 1948 she met Sam Johnson, Jr., and they married on April 9, 1949. They were blessed with three children: William Mark, Karen Ann and Pamela Denise.

Barbara was a tireless advocate for causes she believed in, not only serving on many charitable and civic organizations, but usually leading them in some capacity. She was former president of the Women's Mission Union, Smoke Rise Garden Club, Smoke Rise Homeowner's Association, Lee Elementary School PTO and ESPO; and was a member of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, which named her "Blount County Citizen of the Year" in 2002.

She worked for the Birmingham Board of Education for 24 years, retiring as Inventory Accountant in 1994. She also served as one of Alabama's delegates

to the National Education Association Convention for several years.

When the family moved to Smoke Rise, Ala., in 1973, Barbara became a member of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, to which she devoted most of her available time and energy.

In addition to her three children, Barbara and Sam took in several foster children and hosted ten foreign exchange students for two years each. Her home was never empty.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Lula Nichols; and sisters, Alma Nichols and Winona Reynolds.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Sam Johnson, Jr.; children, Mark Johnson (Lois), Karen Brower (Lee) and Pamela Bullard (Terry Wall); grandchildren, Donnie Smith, Samuel Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Heather Bullard and Lindsey Bullard; sisters, Maxine (Parnell) Dixon and Mignon (Al) Marcey; her Smoke Rise Baptist Church family; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be Monday, June 15, 2015 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at The New Gardendale Funeral Home. Funeral services will be in the chapel Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. with a private burial to follow.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Barbara L. Johnson.*



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June 14, 2015 at 08:59 PM

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“ I have so many memories of Barbara. When I first became Food Service Director at Smoke Rise, I really didn't know what to expect. Barbara took me under her wing. On several occasions I would come in on Saturday evening and work late in the night preparing for an after church dinner on Sunday. It was nothing to look up and see Mrs. Barbara parking her car to come and help. She would stay with me until I finished. She always brought laughter to the kitchen and gave me advice about catering and food preparation. There were very few teas, if any, that she wasn't there showing her support of the happy occasion.

I loved for her to go to food shows with me. On one such trip, we were talking and I turned to look at her and she was gone. I looked down and she had fallen. I begged her to let me take her to the doctor, but as you know, she was a little stubborn. She did finally agree to let the "bike medics" checked her out but refused to leave without going to the food show. We walked all over the BJCC food show but I didn't find out until the next day, when she wasn't able to come to church, that her face was bruised and she had broken her cheek.

On one Mission trip, she rode with Greg and me and our Suburban broke down. There wasn't enough room in the Tow Truck for all of us, so Mrs. Barbara sat in Greg's lap to the garage.

I know she loved and was proud of her family by the way she talked about them so often. I know she loved Jesus just by the way she lived and her Godly advice. She did a lot for Smoke Rise Church and our community. She will be missed by many and I can truly say, I was blessed and am a better person because I knew her. I loved Mrs. Barbara and I will miss her.

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**Belinda Aderhold** - June 14, 2015 at 01:17 PM