



Deacon Johnny Lee Hester

November 13, 1941 - July 13, 2019

DEACON JOHNNY L. HESTER

On November 13, 1941, Johnny Lee Hester—the fifth of eight children (six daughters and two sons) was born to Willie James Hester, Sr. and Earline Beckum Hester in Sebring, Florida. From an early age, Johnny excelled as a scholar at E. O. Douglas from first to twelfth grades. He matriculated at Florida A&M University and received both of his degrees—a Bachelor of Science (1963) and a Master of Education in History (1970). He was also a graduate of the International Seminary in Plymouth, Florida with a degree in Religion and Christian Education. As the patriarch of the Hester family, he was gifted with a photostatic memory and recall of scriptures, specific names, dates, birthdays, special events, family happenings and directions. He was affectionately called “Daniel Boone.” John was a “no non-sense” man who loved God, his family, friends and good food.

Johnny’s first teaching position began in Highland’s County at Hopewell Elementary School in Avon Park, Florida. Later he taught at his alma mater—E. O. Douglas High School for 7 years. In 1970, he attained a teaching position with Orange County Public Schools and taught History at Winter Park Junior High School. During his 23–year tenure, Johnny taught History at Conway Middle School in Orlando where he impacted the lives of students. His last position was working with DCF – State of Florida for 12 years upon which he retired in 2005.

On August 4, 1973 at Malone Memorial Church of God in Christ, Johnny and Margaret Loman were joined in Holy Matrimony. In 1971, he joined Malone Memorial Church of God in Christ and served faithfully under the leadership of Bishop Melton L. Sconiers. He dedicated his life to the work of the Lord and was ordained to the office of Deacon. Deacon Hester was a lover of God's Word and gospel music—mainly choir songs and hymns of the church. He was a tenor who sang in the Mass/Combined Choirs for 40 years and served as the Youth Choir advisor. Deacon Hester lived an exemplary life as a servant and church leader.

For 17 years, he was a member of New Life Church of Orlando under Bishop Derrick W. Hutchins. With a sincere desire to do a greater work for the Lord, Deacon Hester obeyed the Lord and founded Community Fellowship COGIC and worked faithfully under the leadership of Pastor Mildred Loman Eason. As a man of integrity, he was appointed as Chairman of the Finance Committee. Even though he was faced with some physical challenges, he endured his afflictions as a "good soldier." His love, witness, testimony, strong convictions and devotion remained steadfast to the end. Regardless of how severe the pains may have been, Johnny never complained.

On Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 8:03 a.m., Deacon Hester answered God's call to rest from his earthly labor. He will be missed by his loving family and devoted longtime friends. Deacon Hester's footsteps were truly ordered by the Lord. Cherished memories will forever live in the hearts of his loving wife of 46 years—Margaret Loman Hester; devoted son: Jeighson L. Hester, Orlando; loving daughter: Jhenese L. Hester, Atlanta; six endeared sisters: Rutha M. Adams, Virginia (Moses) McRae, Avon Park, Mary J. Smith, Apopka, Shirlene (Simon) Whetstone, Minnie L. Matthews and Earline (Larry) Calhoun, all of Orlando; special nieces and nephews: Marilyn, Barbara, Cheryl, Fred, Deitrice, Linda Faye, Sharon, Jimmie, Jeremy, Stacey, Davita, Leon, Jeffrey

Keith, LaJuan, LaVette, Jon, Shawn, Michelle, Robyn; other loving nieces, nephews, great nieces, great-nephews, great-great grand nieces and nephews, godchildren: Karen (Archie) Sims-Williams, Serena Williams, Matthew Gray, Jackie Lamar, a host of longtime friends, classmates, co-workers and Community Fellowship Church family.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park

400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road
Gotha, FL 34734

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 19. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

New Life Church of Orlando
3311 N. Powers Drive
Orlando, FL 32818

Service

JUL 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

New Life Church of Orlando
3311 N. Powers Drive
Orlando, FL 32818

Tribute Wall



“ *Deacon Johnny Lee Hester*

October 22, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *I met Johnny while working at HRS formerly known as DCF, he was a quiet and honest man, he loved God to talk about God, his wife children and good food, I remember him talking about his mother and the loving and fond memories he had with her. One day I was on the phone with my husband and Deacon Hester told me that I needed to call my husband back and apologize to him because I had disrespected him I wanted to tell Johnny to mind his business but when he told me remember you represent Christ and would Christ talk to you like that I immediately called my husband and apologized and thanked Johnny for loving me enough for telling me the truth. I will truly miss his smile and laughter and how he kept everyone in line with his quiet demeanor and powerful and strong relationship with God for I know without a shadow of doubt that you are present with God. May God comfort you all as only He can and will. Robin Houser-Curry*

Robin Houser-Curry - July 27, 2019 at 03:22 AM



“ *Grieve with Hester family in the loss of their beloved brother Johnny Lee and my God continue to blessed John's wife and children and his siblings. Hazel Henry Price and Rev. Howard Henry families .*

Howard Henry/Hazel HenryPrice - July 20, 2019 at 11:27 AM

EJ

“ My condolences to the Hester family in the passing of Johnny Lee. The family that live on Grand Ave, i will always remember you all. Johnny and I was at FAMU at the same time and i have fond memories as Freshmen of seeing Johnny Lee, a familiar face and a "Homeboy".

Edmund Henry Jr - July 19, 2019 at 08:11 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Deacon Johnny Lee Hester.



July 18, 2019 at 06:34 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Deacon Johnny Lee Hester.



July 18, 2019 at 12:47 PM

RT

“ Rachel, Clifford and Toni purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Deacon Johnny Lee Hester.



Rachel, Clifford and Toni - July 17, 2019 at 03:31 PM

CF

“ Cynthia Allen and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Deacon Johnny Lee Hester.



Cynthia Allen and Family - July 16, 2019 at 05:54 PM

BW

“ Margaret and Family, I am praying for your Strength. May His Angels Surround you with His LOVE and Care is my Prayer. God Bless. Overseer Betty Williams/ EBON Temple, Orlando.

Betty Williams - July 16, 2019 at 03:32 PM

MR

“ Sending sincere condolences to the family in the loss of our loved one, Johnny. He was a remarkable man, a true friend, and such a joy to know. May God's blessings be with you doing this time of sorrow.

Marva Reid - July 16, 2019 at 08:44 AM

LH

I am praying for you and family. I am asking God to strengthen you and protect you at this difficult time. Know that he won't put more on you than you can bear. Lillie Thompson Hill

Lillie Thompson Hill - July 19, 2019 at 02:18 PM