



Lois B. Johnson

June 28, 1937 - June 7, 2025

Diva Lois B. Johnson - quoted from her Five Last Wishes – “I want people to remember me as I was.”

The Diva, as affectionately called by her family and closest friends, was born Lois Elizabeth Payne in Goochland County, Virginia to the union of Reuben Payne and Elizabeth Dennis on June 28, 1937. Lois held the distinction of being the eldest of four children and the only girl. Her early education took place in a wooden schoolhouse where all ages attended in one room. As a youth the family moved to the “big city” – Richmond- where she continued her education in the Richmond City public school system.

Lois was always an activist and one who would defy the status quo when it infringed upon the civil rights of her own people. So at the tender age of 14, in 1951, she boycotted a Richmond city bus when she said, “why should I go to the back of the bus when there is a seat up front”. After refusing to move, and much talk back, the woman seated beside her got up and got off of the bus at the next stop. Lois had won her first battle for history and change in America. This was four years before our beloved Rosa Parks boycotted a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

At the age of 18 she married Dennis Lowell Brown and started a family. By the time she was in her early 30’s she was once again fighting for the rights of the

people when she cracked the ceiling for black waitresses to be given a fair chance at being hired in upscale restaurants. She was the first black woman hired at The Flying Cloud, initially as a bar girl and soon thereafter as a waitress “on the floor”, which was unheard of, after staging a one woman strike for several hours. That day she was promoted!

Lois always wanted to be a model so at the age of 43 she tried out for a citywide models casting call. She pulled together something out of her closet, practiced her walk and then went to the audition fearing her age would not allow her to be chosen when she saw young women in their 20’s. But having that tenacious spirit she auditioned, and of course she was chosen. That was the start of her extraordinary dream fulfilled, the birthing of that unmistakable Thais Productions European-style runway walk, and an illustrious modeling career that lasted until she was in her mid-seventies. Most of her shows were done for charitable events to help fund worthy causes such as The American Heart Association, Marine Corps Wives Club, The Washington Redskins (Commanders), numerous churches, and the like.

Lois worked for AT&T for many years, and retired from Lucent Technologies, as they were called by that time. She has remained friends with many of her co-workers throughout the years. She especially loved to tell the stories of how they would play Bid Whist on their lunch break.

Lois loved family. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great great grandmother, sister, aunt, and cousin to so many during her time as the matriarch of this family. She never let anything happen to or any need go unmet for anyone whom she loved, especially her children. She was a faithful friend to all in her circle.

Lois loved Jesus! She was a faithful member of Cedar Street Baptist Church under her dear Pastor, Rev. Robinson. At the mention of the Name of Jesus

she would quicken and lift up her hands in praise. The last months, weeks, days and hours she was sustained by her faith. She told Jesus, "I'm coming, but not today, but I'm coming" a few days prior to peacefully drifting off to sleep in His loving arms at the age of 87.

The Diva leaves behind to carry on her legacy six children, Sheryl Harris (Eddie), Dennis Brown, Alan Brown, Mosghetti Brown (Shreta), Esposito Brown (Barbara) and Shawn Brown. Six grands, Thais Jones (David), Clinton Hill, Jr (Tiffany), Morgan Wills, Quenton Brown (April), Shawn Brown Jr., and Dominique Brown. Twelve great grands and one great-great grand, two brothers William Payne and Moschetti Payne; and a host of extended family and friends, including devoted friend and caregiver Regina "Gigi" Ragin.

The Diva quietly transitioned in her own home answering the final call of the Lord to "Come" on Saturday, June 7, 2025. She was tired of the burden of fighting to live towards the end. She always made sure that her wishes were clear of how she chose to be cared for, and how she wanted to live and die. She wasn't afraid of death. In fact she was anxious to see Jesus for herself. She answered the final call with the grace and dignity befitting a saint of God.

Matthew 11:28

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

1401 S. Randolph Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 25. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes
2110 E Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23222-2413
(804) 321-4200

Family Hour

JUN 25. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN **26**. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a <https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/113531> in memory of Lois B. Johnson*



March Funeral Homes - June 18, 2025 at 12:30 PM

RC

We was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of your mother. May you and your family find comfort in the cherished moments you shared together, and may memory bring you peace. Doing this time of loss, I want you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. One of memories, being here Seamstress is she loved dressing to perfection. Beautiful she was. With Jesus love, Rosalind Canada

Rosalind Canada - June 20, 2025 at 05:31 PM

AJ

Lois loved beauty. Her appearance was always beautiful, she loved beautiful fashion and her home was beautiful. She will be missed. Alma v, Jackson and Family, Neighbors

Alma V. Jackson - June 22, 2025 at 04:00 PM

YC

Such a stylish and elegant woman. She live a beautiful life. She was an example for all to follow.

yvette coles - June 26, 2025 at 01:29 PM

AD

OMG, time waits for no one. I'm so sorry for the family's loss. I've been so busy and Mrs. Johnson answered the call while Life & it's stressors were going on. You WILL be missed. Family...God is still holding you. Take Care & God Speed Diva!

*Respectfully,
Angelique (Angel)*

Angelique Dickerson - August 01, 2025 at 09:32 AM

RC

“ *Sending my sincere sympathy to the family the of Lois B. Johnson. Lois and I have been friends for over 60+ years. She was a good friend. Sending prays to the family.*

Ruth L. Carter

Ruth L. Carter - June 27, 2025 at 03:29 PM

HC

“ *I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Lois. I worked with her at the Flying Cloud Restaurant. I was her busboy when she became a waitress. I remember those days of making sure that I got her tables cleared and reset so that she could get her share of the "good tipping" customers. She was the only Black waitress and the hostess discriminated against her. I also worked with Lois at AT@T. She was a beautiful woman and a great friend who will be truly missed!*



HENRY CARTER - June 26, 2025 at 12:10 PM

KB

“ Hello my name is Kathy (caregiver)I’m so blessed I had the opportunity to meet the family and spend time with Mrs Lois before she went home to the lord I helped the family out with mrs lois from time to time an the days I spent with her was so enjoyable really made my day we danced and danced and boy let me tell you she had some moves....mrs lois when it is my time to enter into the pearly gates I will be looking for you to get my big hug.....much love to you sweet pea I will miss you because you felt so much like a mother to me so sweet so kind and loving I would say to her Mrs Lois you are so adorable and she would reply “I know I’m” you make sure you keep them on their toes ...

kathy Best - June 26, 2025 at 12:00 PM

HC

“ HENRY CARTER lit a candle in memory of Lois B. Johnson



HENRY CARTER - June 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM

CJ

“ Clotilde J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lois B. Johnson.

Clotilde J. - June 26, 2025 at 01:12 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lois B. Johnson.



June 25, 2025 at 04:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lois B. Johnson.

June 25, 2025 at 04:49 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lois B. Johnson.



June 25, 2025 at 03:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lois B. Johnson.

June 25, 2025 at 03:19 PM



“ Tracy-Ann and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lois B. Johnson.



Tracy-Ann and Family - June 25, 2025 at 12:47 PM

EP

“ To you Sherly I send my condolences to the Family. As reading the obituary of this great Woman of God My heart is sadden that I didn't get the opportunity to meet her so thank you for sharing the legacy of her ❤️. I pray that God with his Good Self will cover the entire family with his Loving Arms of comfort ❤️. Know that I will be continuing keeping You All in my Prayers. Love Eddrenia Mother Cee Neice in Jacksonville NC.



Eddrenia Pridgen - June 25, 2025 at 09:30 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lois B. Johnson.



June 19, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lois B. Johnson.

June 19, 2025 at 03:06 PM

RM

“ Rev. Dr. Louella Penny Meachem purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Lois B. Johnson.



Rev. Dr. Louella Penny Meachem - June 18, 2025 at 08:48 AM

RM

“ Rev. Dr. Louella Penny Meachem planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lois B. Johnson.

Rev. Dr. Louella Penny Meachem - June 18, 2025 at 08:48 AM

MG

“ I was saddened to hear of Lois's passing but "To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord". After reading Lois's amazing and interesting obituary, I felt truly honored that I had the pleasure of working and knowing Lois for many years at the AT&T/Lucent Technologies Manufacturing Center here in RVA on Laburnum Ave. Always friendly and very well dressed at all times, Lois was always a Lady and carried herself as such. When she started modeling, she caught a lot of us by surprise with how great she was at it and her style and signature "walk on the runway" will never be forgotten! No one had her "walk", and it was wonderful to see her succeed at her dream. I'm sending heartfelt prayers and condolences to Lois's entire family, friends and all of the co-workers. May Lois continue to Rest In Paradise.



Michael D. Gray - June 17, 2025 at 05:03 AM

DA

“ Sending Condolences to the Family 🙏



Debbie Allen - June 16, 2025 at 03:23 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - June 16, 2025 at 11:18 AM