



## Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson

June 4, 1997 - September 12, 2024

It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Nia Keanna Johnson. She was a bright and ambitious young lady whose life was marked by extraordinary dedication and kindness. Nia entered into eternal rest on September 12, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to her family, faith, friends, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Born on June 4, 1997, Nia demonstrated remarkable intelligence and drive from a young age. Her academic journey was nothing short of inspiring. She earned two undergraduate degrees in Kinesiology and Nutrition from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and East Tennessee State University, respectively, and achieved her certification in Sports Nutrition. During her time as a student, she enjoyed working at the Nutrition Fueling Station with the UT Football team and providing nutritional snacks and information for the ETSU Women's Basketball team. She was working towards completing her master's degree in nutrition at North Carolina Central University. She taught youth nutritional culinary classes at the YWCA in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her dedication to her studies was fueled by her desire to make a meaningful impact in the field of nutrition, reflecting her deep-seated belief in the power of education and her commitment to improving the lives of others.

Nia was not only known for her academic achievements but also for her warm and thoughtful nature. She had an incredible ability to lift others up with her

encouraging words and genuine support. She was gifted with the ability to truly empathize with those around her. Her faith in God was a cornerstone of her life, guiding her through her triumphs and health challenges with grace and strength.

Family was the center of Nia's life. She cherished her loved ones deeply and was a constant source of support and inspiration. Her dedication to her family was unwavering. Nia enjoyed all things Disney, whether it was Disney movies, Disney theme parks, or Disney cruises. She also loved shopping with her mother and sister. Because Nia paid close attention to the smallest details of her family's lives, she had the unique ability to give the most thoughtful and insightful gifts.

Nia's passing leaves a void in the hearts of her family and those who knew and loved her. She will be remembered for her intellect, compassion, wit, and limitless enthusiasm for life. Her legacy will continue through the lives she touched and the work she so fervently pursued.

Nia attended Thankful Baptist Church, where she was involved in various ministries. She was a member of the Children's Choir, Brave Believer's Bible Club, and Devotion in Motion Dance Team. She taught youth Wednesday Night Bible study and Vacation Bible School. She was very supportive of Women's ministries.

A Celebration of Life to honor Nia Keanna Johnson will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 4 p.m. from Thankful Baptist Church. The family will receive friends at 3 p.m. until the hour of service. Viewings will be conducted Friday, September 20, 2024, from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Birchette Mortuary & Cremation Service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Thankful Baptist Church/Nia Johnson Fund to establish an academic scholarship in her honor. Donations

can be mailed to 1501 E. Watauga Avenue, Johnson City TN 37601.

Nia is survived by her devoted parents, Dr. Keith and Shirley Johnson; her brother and protector, Vincent Johnson; her big sister and best friend, Imani Johnson; and her loving paternal grandmother, Carolyn C. Johnson. She also leaves to cherish her memory her aunts, Edna Edgerston, Ollie Gibbs, and Dianne (Thomas) Cox; uncles, Alvonzo Peters, James Solomon, Horace (Linda) Johnson, Jr. and Darry (Melissa) Scott; her adopted grandparents, Rev. Robert and Patricia Hedgepeth and the Pine Chapel Baptist Church family; her best friend since 2nd grade, Annalee Brantner and the Brantner family; and numerous loving cousins and other close relatives and friends. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her. May she rest in peace, and may her life continue to inspire everyone to strive for greatness, to act with kindness, and to hold our loved ones close.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

SEP **20**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Birchette Mortuary & Cremation Service, Inc.  
219 E Millard St  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
(423) 926-6013  
mitchell@birchettemortuary.com  
<https://birchettemortuary.com/>

## Viewing

SEP **21**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Birchette Mortuary & Cremation Service, Inc.  
219 E Millard St  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
(423) 926-6013  
mitchell@birchettemortuary.com  
<https://birchettemortuary.com/>

## Receiving of Family & Friends

SEP **21**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church  
1501 E Watauga Ave  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
(423) 926-5241

## Celebration of Life

SEP 21. 4:00 PM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church  
1501 E Watauga Ave  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
(423) 926-5241

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Thankful Baptist Church/Nia Johnson Fund to establish an academic scholarship in her honor. Donations can be mailed to 1501 E. Watauga Avenue, Johnson City TN 37601.*

# Tribute Wall

PN

“ *Pamnita V Norwood sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Pamnita V Norwood** - November 19, 2024 at 10:08 PM

SK

“ *Susan Kellogg lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Susan Kellogg** - October 26, 2024 at 02:15 PM

EB

“ *Elaine Brady lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Elaine Brady** - October 07, 2024 at 07:44 PM

PA

“ *Phyllis Askew lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Phyllis Askew** - September 25, 2024 at 09:44 AM

VR

“ *Van Rollins sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



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**Van Rollins** - September 23, 2024 at 05:04 PM

SC

“ *Susie Colston lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



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**Susie Colston** - September 23, 2024 at 02:21 PM

RL

“ *The "Little Princess" was such a joy in my life. She made me laugh, she scolded me, (she knew that she could) and we spent many hours praying together. She will be missed so much. But she will remain in my heart forever. My and Stephanie's prayers are with and for Keith, Shirley, Vincent, Imani and all of the Johnson Family at this time. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.*

*God bless each of you,  
With our love,  
Rev. Lester D. & First Lady Stephanie Lattany*

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**Rev. Lester D. Lattany** - September 21, 2024 at 01:32 PM

PB

“ *Paul@Vanessa Braxton lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



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**Paul@Vanessa Braxton** - September 21, 2024 at 10:41 AM

JS

“ *Dr. Johnson and family, our deepest condolences on the loss of your beloved Nia. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. May the trees we planted in Nia's honor represent the love and life she has brought to many and will continue to bless others with as her legacy lives on. May God continue to comfort and keep you ~ Dr. Lisa Dunkley, Dr. Christine Lewis, Ms. Deidra Rogers, and Dr. Jean Swindle*

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**Jean Swindle** - September 21, 2024 at 10:38 AM

EJ

“ *E J. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*

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**E J.** - September 21, 2024 at 10:27 AM

ES

“ *So sorry for the loss of your beautiful daughter and sister. Will be praying for you all.*  
*Elizabeth Smith*

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**Elizabeth Smith** - September 21, 2024 at 09:59 AM

TL

“ Keith, Shirley and family, our hearts are broken with much sadness; of the thought of you having to lay your precious baby girl Nia to rest. We can't imagine the pain that you as parents, and the rest of the family feel. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers doing this difficult time. We Love You! Teddy and Gail



Teddy@Gail Lynch - September 20, 2024 at 11:01 PM

LM

“ Lori Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Lori Mitchell - September 20, 2024 at 09:01 PM

WP

“ William Parker lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



William parker - September 20, 2024 at 08:39 PM

EJ

“ Edith T - Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Edith T - Johnson - September 20, 2024 at 05:28 PM

CC

“ Charlotte Chopin lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Charlotte Chopin - September 20, 2024 at 04:34 PM

CR

“ Mrs. Carolyn Johnson & Family,  
Our thoughts & prayers are with you.  
May God continue to strengthen each of you.  
Love your Pine Chapel Church Family,  
Sheria,Christine,Katie & Beatrice



Christine Richardson - September 20, 2024 at 04:32 PM

ER

“ Evelyn Roach lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Evelyn Roach - September 20, 2024 at 11:33 AM

ES

“ ETSU Exercise Science Faculty and Staff purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.



ETSU Exercise Science Faculty and Staff - September 20, 2024 at 07:28 AM

ES

“ ETSU Exercise Science Faculty and Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.

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ETSU Exercise Science Faculty and Staff - September 20, 2024 at 07:28 AM

CR

“ Johnson Family,  
You are held close in thought and prayer throughout this season of bereavement. God chose to release Nia from earthly cares and mercifully granted her peaceful rest in His Presence. Hers is truly Heaven's gain.



*'Til we greet again, rest well, my Beautiful Friend.*

Condolences,  
Cheryl Rhea Family

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Cheryl Rhea - September 19, 2024 at 11:35 PM

DP

“ Doris Person lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



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Doris Person - September 19, 2024 at 10:43 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



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September 19, 2024 at 10:41 PM



“ *Cori and Rico Diaz in California purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



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**Cori and Rico Diaz in California** - September 19, 2024 at 10:32 PM



“ *Cori and Rico Diaz in California planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*

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**Cori and Rico Diaz in California** - September 19, 2024 at 10:32 PM



“ *Uncle Willie Lee light a candle in loving memory of Nia.*



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**Uncle Willie Lee** - September 19, 2024 at 08:53 PM

UF

“ *Nia, reflective of a rose. She exemplified love and beauty. Her infectious smile and notable desire to have a positive impact on the lives of others is so intriguing. Thanks be to God for being her guiding light along side her parents.  
God's garden has a beautiful rose, our Nia.*

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**Uncle Lennord and Aunt Gloria and Family** - September 19, 2024 at 08:47 PM

CG

*I did not know Nia. By reading her story i can tell that the world is a better place because she was here. Sending prayers for her family and friends.*

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**Chris T Given** - September 20, 2024 at 10:09 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



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September 19, 2024 at 07:19 PM

SS

“ *Shelby Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*

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**Shelby Smith** - September 19, 2024 at 07:19 PM

TF

“ *The Price Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



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**The Price Family** - September 19, 2024 at 05:29 PM

AN

“ *Angelo Newman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



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**Angelo Newman** - September 19, 2024 at 03:17 PM

LB

“ *Lisa and David Bowen purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



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**Lisa and David Bowen** - September 19, 2024 at 12:32 PM

SL

“ *Sharron Livingston sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



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**Sharron Livingston** - September 19, 2024 at 12:32 PM

ML

“*Mary Latham sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Mary Latham** - September 19, 2024 at 08:47 AM

VN

“*Veral Neal lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Veral Neal** - September 18, 2024 at 09:53 PM

DH

“*I pray that God will grant you the strength you need to get through this difficult time.*”



**Dr. Janette Harvey** - September 18, 2024 at 09:31 PM

SJ

*I will continue to pray for all the family that are left to mourn the loss of such a beautiful person (Nia).* 🙏💙💛

**Sonya Jenkins** - September 19, 2024 at 12:18 PM

CB

“ Sorry for your loss. Praying for strength and healing for the family. We send our condolences. Norma Faye Bridwell Chandra Bridwell Tanya (Bridwell) Berry



Chandra Bridwell - September 18, 2024 at 08:15 PM

DS

“ Dear Keith, Shirley and family, My heart is truly broken. My prayers are extended to each of you. Nia was such a compassionate young lady and often reached out to me in our similar health concerns. She was the very reason I accepted many medications that I was initially apprehensive to take. Nia will always hold a special place in my memories. Your family will hold a special place in my heart during the dark days ahead. May Nia rest in the arms of Jesus and may He give you comfort, strength and peace.



Deborah Simmons-Grey - September 18, 2024 at 08:13 PM

GF

“ Gary & Moricina Fain sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Gary & Moricina Fain - September 18, 2024 at 07:23 PM

GF

Keith, Shirley & the Family, Gary and I are keeping you all in our prayers. We are so sorry to hear about sweet Nia.

Gary and Moricina Fain - September 18, 2024 at 07:37 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



September 18, 2024 at 07:16 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss and will be praying 🙏 for your family.*



**Joe and Diane Hardin** - September 18, 2024 at 04:13 PM



“ *Lynn & Rayetta Bachman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Lynn & Rayetta Bachman** - September 18, 2024 at 04:13 PM



“ *Carolyn Fain lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



**Carolyn Fain** - September 18, 2024 at 04:11 PM

CT

“ Sending our most sincere condolences in the passing of your precious daughter, sister, and granddaughter. She has blessed this world for a short period of time and has left an impact like none other. Trusting that God will sustain each of you during and after this time. God is.....



Clifton & Mabel Taylor-Jones - September 18, 2024 at 01:37 PM

JN

“ Dr. Johnson, I am deeply sorry for you and yours and I pray for the deepest faith and comfort from Our Heavenly Father. May your precious child remain a blessing to your hearts always!  
-Reedena Newlon

Jonni Reedena Newlon - September 18, 2024 at 01:23 PM

PA

“ Phyllis Askew lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Phyllis Askew - September 18, 2024 at 01:17 PM

VP

“ Viola Patton sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Viola Patton - September 18, 2024 at 11:29 AM

EJ

*Keith, Shirley, Vincent, Imani and family. My heart skipped a beat when I heard the news about Nia. Words are not enough to express how deeply saddened I am. I reflected on the times she and Imani spent with me when I lived in JC. I have so much love for your family. My deepest condolences to you and the entire family. You're in my prayers!!*

*Edith Tillman-Johnson*

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**Edith Tillman Johnson** - September 18, 2024 at 01:25 PM

MG

“*Dear Keith and the whole Johnson family, I am truly heartbroken by your loss. Our children occupy such a central place in our hearts that I cannot imagine your pain. Know that you are all in my prayers and that I will light a candle in her honor and memory this weekend at Notre Dame. God's peace be with you.*

*Mike Gazzerro*

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**Michael Gazzerro** - September 18, 2024 at 10:56 AM

AP

“*Ed and Adrienne Price, and Family*

*Keith, Shirley, Vincent, and Imani - We are so very deeply sorry about the loss of precious Nia. We are lifting you and your family up in prayer that Almighty God provides you with Everything you need during this very difficult time.*

*We are only a phone call away. Please call if you need us for Anything. We love you.*

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**Adrienne Price** - September 18, 2024 at 10:32 AM

BG

“ My heart is truly broken, and there are simply not enough words to express how deeply sorry I am for your loss. Nia was an extraordinary person who touched so many lives, inspiring everyone around her with her strength, kindness, and unwavering spirit. Her light will continue to shine in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known her. She could not have asked for a more loving, supportive family, and your bond was a testament to the love that surrounded her.



*During this incredibly difficult time, I pray that the Lord wraps you in His peace and love, providing comfort and strength as you navigate through this painful journey. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Bambi Garland** - September 18, 2024 at 10:21 AM

JW

“ I remember Nia's first swim lesson. She climbed up on top her dad's head and probably didn't spend much time perfecting her strokes.  
*Jon Walker.*

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**Jon walker** - September 18, 2024 at 09:37 AM

CG

“ Nia was one of the sweetest and kindest people I knew. We went to school together when I was young, and to my sister and I, she was a complete role model. We loved every moment we got to spend with her, even though she was older and probably had more important things to do. Nia was graceful, godly, and so much fun. Even after I moved schools, I never forgot her. She made a lasting impact on me, just like I'm sure she did on everyone she met. Nia was truly a gem. My deepest condolences to the Johnson family.

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**Casper Gilmer** - September 18, 2024 at 09:22 AM

AH

“ Aunt Catherine & Uncle Tommie Hedgepeth lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Aunt Catherine & Uncle Tommie Hedgepeth - September 18, 2024 at 09:11 AM

WS

“ Dr. Johnson and family, I'm praying for you all during this difficult time of bereavement. My heart hurts for you. Grief is love that has no place to go and has no time limit. May God keep you all comforted as you navigate your days ahead without your beautiful little princess.



Wilma Fields Smith - September 18, 2024 at 09:04 AM

UF

“ Uncle Lennord And Aunt Gloria And Family lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Uncle Lennord and Aunt Gloria and Family - September 18, 2024 at 08:54 AM

JW

“ Janice Wells lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



janice wells - September 18, 2024 at 08:06 AM

YS

“*Nia, I never met you but I fell in love with your beautiful smile. What earth has lost, heaven has gained. My love goes out to your family. I can only imagine the sadness they are feeling right now. Rest in heavenly peace little cousin*”

Yvonne Solomon - September 18, 2024 at 08:05 AM

MR

“*Mary Rollins lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*”



Mary Rollins - September 18, 2024 at 08:03 AM



“*Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*”



September 18, 2024 at 07:54 AM

MD

“*Melvin Drumgoole sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*”



Melvin Drumgoole - September 18, 2024 at 07:41 AM

TF

“ Praying that you might find comfort and strength knowing the Lord is your refuge in this time of sorrow.

*From the family of the late Sarah Jefferson*

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**The late Sarah Jefferson's Family** - September 18, 2024 at 12:27 AM

LR

“ My heart is broken. Nia was a precious, kind, caring young lady with a smile that brightened my days when she walked into my classroom. Nia wrote the sweetest encouraging notes to my 93 year old mother.

*I will be praying for her family and all who dearly loved her. May God bless them with His Peace which passes all understanding.*

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**Linda Robbins** - September 17, 2024 at 11:52 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.



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September 17, 2024 at 11:00 PM

HJ

“ Rest in peace my dear friend Nia



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**Hannah Joseph** - September 17, 2024 at 10:40 PM

YJ

“ Yvonne Joseph lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Yvonne Joseph - September 17, 2024 at 10:28 PM

YS

“ My condolences and prayers to the Johnson family.



Yolanda Simmons - September 17, 2024 at 10:06 PM



“ We send our deepest sympathies to you all . You all are in our thoughts and prayers .

*Cheyenne and Sherelle Chase*

Sherelle Chase - September 17, 2024 at 10:03 PM

BW

“ Send our condolences to the family and may God continue to strengthen the family. Nia RIP from Jarvis, Barbara, Tonio, and Jyrell.



Barbara Wynn - September 17, 2024 at 09:48 PM



VB

“ Heartfelt condolences to Nia’s parents, Shirley and Keith, her brother, sister, family, friends and our dear friend, Edna. God’s love, peace and comfort are embracing each of you.

Bob and Von Brown

Bahama, NC ❤️🙏



VonDelle Haskins Brown - September 17, 2024 at 08:52 PM

VS

“ Praying for your family

Vanessa Stephens - September 17, 2024 at 08:30 PM

BF

“ Vincent, sincere condolences to you, family and friends. 🙏

James & Frances Bass

Preston & Marcus Itaro



Bass & Itaro Family - September 17, 2024 at 07:59 PM

PD

“ Pauline Douglas lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Pauline Douglas - September 17, 2024 at 07:59 PM

VB

“ *Vanessa Babb lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



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**Vanessa Babb** - September 17, 2024 at 07:11 PM

NH

*To the Johnson and Solomon Family, I send my heartfelt condolences to you during this time. Just know you have family, friends and the community praying for you and with you.*

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**Norma Hedgepeth** - September 17, 2024 at 07:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



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September 17, 2024 at 07:08 PM

DB

“ *Doris Burgess lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson*



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**Doris Burgess** - September 17, 2024 at 06:57 PM

FF

“ Fred And Jackie Fields lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Fred and Jackie Fields - September 17, 2024 at 06:38 PM

JJ

“ Jaymon 'Edna and adeline praying for the family



Jaymon Johnson - September 17, 2024 at 06:23 PM

KB

“ My prayers to the Johnson Family on the loss of this beautiful light gone far too soon. You are in my prayers!

Kimberly Bracy - September 17, 2024 at 06:07 PM

TG

“ Terea And Thomas Graham lit a candle in memory of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson



Terea and Thomas Graham - September 17, 2024 at 06:03 PM

KH

“ *Kenneth and Tanisha Hawkins purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ms. Nia Keanna Johnson.*



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**Kenneth and Tanisha Hawkins** - September 17, 2024 at 05:26 PM