



Norman Hugo Johnson

November 17, 1935 - April 11, 2017

November 1 and 17, 1935 - April 11, 2017

Norman Hugo Johnson, of Apex, North Carolina, passed away on Tuesday, April 11, at the age of 81.

Norman was born the youngest of two children to parents Norman and Gwelda Winfree (nee Johnson) on November 17th, 1935 in Short Pump, Virginia. He had two birthdays; as the 1st of the month was the standard issued government birthday that many southern black children in the 1930's were given on the first day of the month of birth, and the 17th - Gwelda was adamant that was the day her baby boy was born.

He was raised to have a ridiculously solid work ethic and to leave everyone he connected with feeling a little better about themselves. Norman started his young hustle with a paper route that provided him with so much cash, he often boasted that certain adults in his family would come to him for money. His Social Activist mother Gwelda, relocated to New Jersey and following a short stint in the Navy, Norman joined her up north. As lore tells it, a lovely model/dancer from Elizabeth, named Carole Fleming met Gwelda, fell in love with her, and was determined to make her family. Carole saw and was enamored a picture of and pocketed the picture of the handsome sailor and while he was home on leave, fate made certain they meet. Carole and Norman fell in love and married July 23, 1960.

In the 60's Norman joined the grocery industry, working for Wakefern Food Corporation, but he knew he was destined to make more of an impact on the

community. In the early 1970s, Norman forged his passion for Civic Responsibility and his love for making black people see their beauty, he opened the doors to Nicole's Beauty and Barber Supply in Montclair New Jersey. For thirty years, Nicole's was a safe haven for all things involving self-care within the black community in Essex County. He was known for supplying most of North Jersey's greatest celebrities with their hair care needs. The walls were graffitied with quotes, positive words and documented connections and break ups of local youth. Norman was affectionately called "Mr. Nicole"; it was never uncommon to enter the store and find him to engaged in deep intellectual stimulating conversation with local politicians, educators, community activists, other business folks, and young people - often hanging on his every word.

In the 90s, Norman closed the doors on Nicole's and at the age of 57 launched yet a new career working for the Post Office.

Norman never met a stranger, he spoke with such sincerity and passion when it came to black Americans learning to love themselves in a time where black pride was often shunned. He devoted himself to educating others and was determined to make the world a more beautiful place.

Norman is survived by his daughter, Nicole Cush, his granddaughter Kyrie Antoinette, and sons Mark Johnson and Marcqus Johnson. He is preceded in death by his loving wife of 56 years, Carole, his parents, Norman and Gwelda, and his sister, Dorothy.

The Memorial Service will take place at Wake Memorial Park Cemetery, 7002 Green Hope School Rd, Cary, NC 27519, on Friday, April 14, at 11:00 am and friends and family are invited to attend a gathering at the home of Donald and Nicole Cush shortly thereafter.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

APR **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wake Memorial Park Cemetery
7002 Green Hope School Rd
Cary, NC 27519
(919) 465-0888
<https://www.wakememorialpark.com/>

Tribute Wall

ML

“ *Marc & Rosario Landry lit a candle in memory of Norman Hugo Johnson*



Marc & Rosario Landry - April 19, 2017 at 07:17 PM

ML

Our sincere condolences at the loss of your father.

Marc and Rosario Landry - April 19, 2017 at 07:23 PM

KS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Treasure the memories:)*

Karen Summers - April 15, 2017 at 04:07 PM

CM

“ *Nicole,*

I am very sorry for your loss. I know you Loved your Dad a lot. You took good care of him. Let me know if I can help you in any way.

Cheryl

Cheryl McGathey - April 15, 2017 at 01:14 PM

SC

“ *Sally Crump lit a candle in memory of Norman Hugo Johnson*



Sally Crump - April 13, 2017 at 11:48 PM

VM

“ *Vivian & Jerry Morgan lit a candle in memory of Norman Hugo Johnson*



Vivian & Jerry Morgan - April 13, 2017 at 02:53 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norman Hugo Johnson.*



April 12, 2017 at 09:51 PM


Yvonne
Spiaggia

“ Norman was an inspiration to all of us here at Raleigh P&DC. You could always count on Norman for good conversation, whether it was about current events or history. He always brought a smile to the faces of those that he encountered throughout his day. He had a great ear to listen if you had something to talk about but he would set you straight in a minute if you were full of it! 😊 He always spoke very fondly of his family, he was so proud of all of their accomplishments. They were the light of his life. We missed Norman when he retired and wished that we could have had more time with him. He will be missed! I pray that the family feels the comfort of the Lord and the love of friends at this time.



Yvonne Spiaggia - April 12, 2017 at 09:01 PM

MG

Your dad was just... cool. He had really amazing stories and was eager to chat with me when I would visit. I'll miss him ❤️❤️❤️

Michele Geraghty - April 13, 2017 at 05:01 PM

LD

“ SENDING MY CONDOLENCES TO THE JOHNSON FAMILY. KEEPING THE FAMILY IN MY THOUGHTS & PRAYERS. GOD BLESS!!! LETIA DICKERSON. CUSTODIAN T-2 @ RALEIGH P&DC RALEIGH NC.



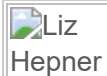
LETIA DICKERSON - April 12, 2017 at 07:45 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norman Hugo Johnson.*



April 12, 2017 at 02:53 PM



“ *Liz Hepner lit a candle in memory of Norman Hugo Johnson*

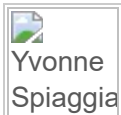


Liz Hepner - April 12, 2017 at 12:09 PM



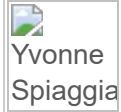
“ *Daddy, you were a lot of firsts for me, the first man I ever loved, my first teacher and my first boss. You gave me life and so much more. You showed me how to be a leader and how to be fiercely loyal to family. You taught me how to be compassionate, kind and supportive. Because of you I am the woman I am today - proud, fierce, smart yet humble - just like you! Thank you for being the the best daddy ever. I love you forever and always.*

Niki Cush - April 12, 2017 at 11:53 AM



So beautiful Niki. We will all miss his smile, his laughter, his enthusiasm for life, his intelligent conversation, his quick wit and his love for those in his life. He spoke fondly of you often.

Yvonne Spiaggia - April 12, 2017 at 08:41 PM



Tour 3 mechanic Raleigh P&DC

Yvonne Spiaggia - April 12, 2017 at 08:44 PM



Norman was a hard worker who loved his wife and family greatly. He worked with us until he was in his 70s, all to take care of his wife and family, a true gentleman.

Michael Méndez - April 13, 2017 at 12:37 AM