

*Celebration of Life*

*Santresa Ann (Johnson) Davis*

*February 21, 1957 - September 26, 2024*



*October 7, 2024*

*Murray Brothers Cascade Chapel*

*1199 Utoy Springs Road SW Atlanta, GA 30331*



# Obituary

*(Written by San)*

Referred to as her greatest accomplishment, San was so, so very proud of her daughter, Sharmaine, who is a wonderful mother to Davis Edward and Dylan Edward, and devoted wife to Lebreaan Mitchell. San would often say, “God gave me an easy child to raise because He knew she would become a single, working mom! He gave me a smart, little angel.” San and Sharmaine grew to be best friends and were in many ways mirrors of each other in persona and temperament. She loved Sharmaine with all of her heart.

Dubbed “the 3 musketeers”, San, Sharmaine, and Sheila shared many days talking, shopping, eating, and just hanging out! She has two grandchildren, one (Davis) whom she lovingly called “Skittles” after Sharmaine’s favorite candy as a child. Skittles calls her “my Gigi”. Her love for this child is immeasurable; she was so happy to finally become a grandma. In her words, “my daughter and son-in-law are making me an ‘old’ grandma waiting so late to have my first!” But she truly understood why they chose to wait.

When “Dylan Pop” was born almost nine years later, her “Gigi love” doubled. She absolutely adored him and loved spending hours with him sleeping on her chest. Lebreaan was more like her son. Even though her only sister, Sheila, was 6.5 years younger, they were as close as two peas in a pod! She also loved her dad, her stepmom, & her two brothers and cherished the moments she shared with each of them.

*(Continued on subsequent page)*

# Order of Service

**Minister Samuel Shepard, Jr.**  
Officiant

Processional.....Officiant & Family

Prayer.....Mr. Larry Davis

Scripture Reading.....Bishop Michael A. Strickland  
Victory Tabernacle Church International  
McDonough, GA

Old Testament: Psalm 23

New Testament: John 14:1-6

Remarks (*2 minutes, please*)

Reading of Obituary (*4 pages*)

“Celebration of Life” Video Tribute

Eulogy.....Minister Samuel Shepard, Jr.

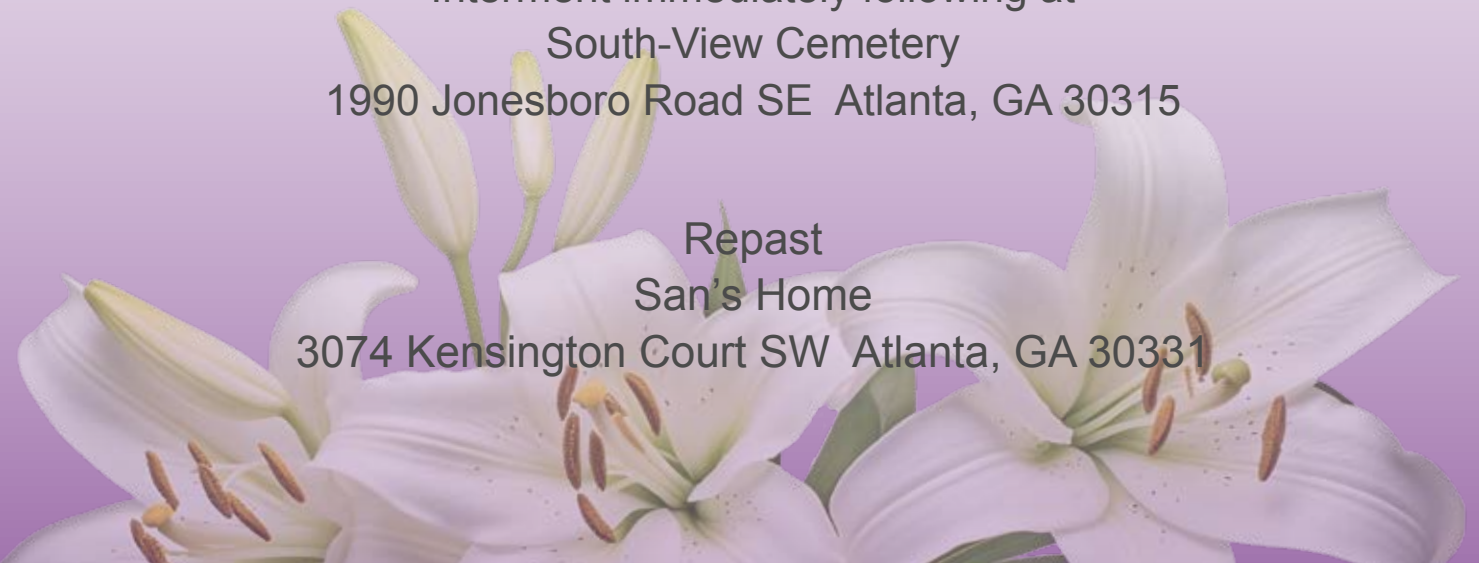
Acknowledgements

Recessional



Interment immediately following at  
South-View Cemetery  
1990 Jonesboro Road SE Atlanta, GA 30315

Repast  
San's Home  
3074 Kensington Court SW Atlanta, GA 30331









# Obituary

(cont.)

Santresa Ann (Johnson) Davis ("San") was born on February 21, 1957 at Harris Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia to Richard Johnson, Sr. and Lizzie Mae (Strickland) Johnson. She was married to Larry Bernard Davis from 1979 to 1984, a union that produced one daughter, Sharmaine Toccara (Davis) Mitchell.

She was a member of Victory Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir for more than 30 years, served as pianist for the children's choir for a short time, and served as Financial Clerk & Registered Agent.

San graduated in 1979 from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she majored in Economics (with honors). She experienced a long career at AT&T from 1979 until she retired in December of 2021 (37.5 years). During her time at AT&T, she held multiple positions: Financial Analyst, Budget Coordinator, Staff Support Manager, Sr. Specialist – Business Management, and Manager-Emergency Restoration Generator Trucking Coordinator.

While her longevity at AT&T is notable, her time at the company was not consecutive. In 1994, she started her own desktop publishing business, which she enjoyed for two years. From 1996 to 1998, she worked part time as Project Manager for American Computer Technology on behalf of Clark Atlanta University. Before returning to work at AT&T, she engaged in temp work for Delta Airlines as a Data Entry Admin from 1998 to 1999.

San leaves to cherish her memories: her daughter, Sharmaine (Lebrean) Mitchell, grandsons Davis and Dylan, her dad, Dr. Richard Johnson, Sr., stepmom, Clementine Johnson, siblings, Richard (Carolyn) Johnson, Jr., Dr. Sheila D. Johnson, and Reginald (Angela) Johnson, nieces and nephew, Rodrick Johnson, Lena Johnson, Sydney Johnson, and Tori Johnson, her best friend, Beverly Edwards, and a host of family and friends.

# *San's Love of Music*

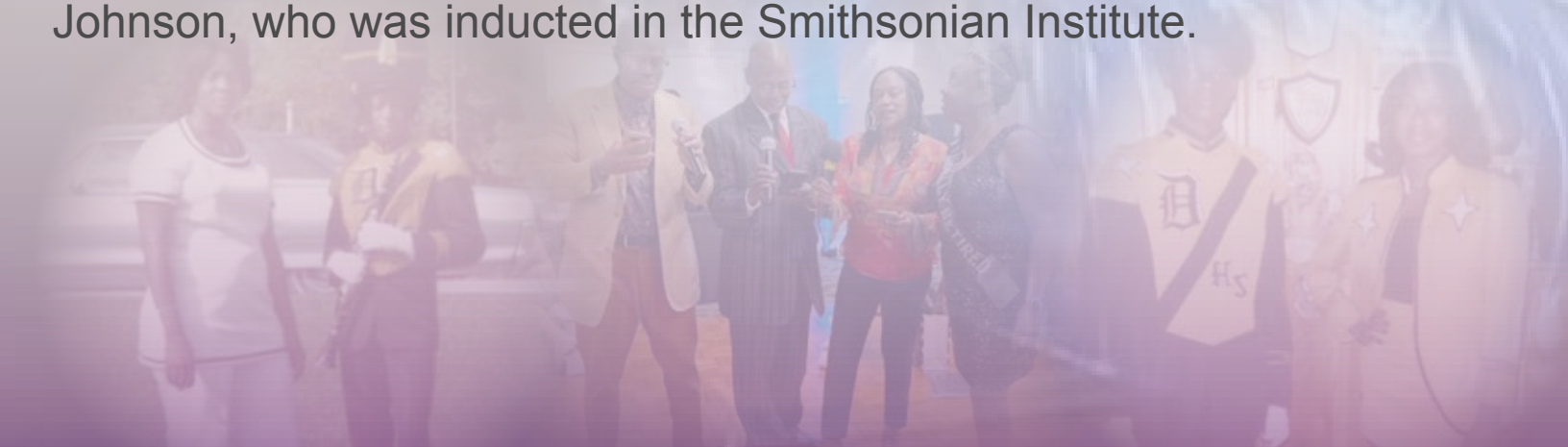
San loved singing background (alto) with her siblings: Richard, Sheila, and Reginald. She worked diligently in the mid to late 1990s, setting up local singing appearances and seeking a record contract. Her efforts led to a local competition where they won an appearance on the hit TV show “Live at the Apollo”, but the gig never came to pass because the Apollo was in the middle of a buy-out/management change. Their R&B singing dream was totally derailed when rap music took over the scene.

Singing and listening to music – all genres – was San’s favorite pastime. She dreamed of becoming a background singer working for a successful artist – gospel or otherwise.

San was a trained classical pianist; she took lessons from 1969 to 1975. She performed in her first solo recital in 1970, at age 13. Her last piano instructor was Dr. Joyce Johnson, who is the senior organist for more than 50 years at Spelman College.

She played the B<sup>b</sup> Clarinet in her elementary school band, and in her high school marching and honor bands. She was assigned 1st chair during her last year as a member of the band. She also wrote the lyrics for her elementary school song entitled “John Carey, the School of My Pride”.

San’s grandfather is renowned hymn and gospel singer, Dr. C.J. Johnson, who was inducted in the Smithsonian Institute.





# San

- San was first in her extended family to graduate from college in 1979!
- Summer Internship at AT&T Long Lines, Atlanta – 1974 (high school)
- Summer Internship in Fashion Merchandising, New York City – 1978
  - Assistant Buyer Trainee at Abraham & Strauss (Brooklyn, NY)
- Member and Captain of the Banderette Dance Squad at Frederick Douglass High School (junior & senior years)
- Selected as the Morehouse College Junior Queen in 1978
- Appeared on “Family Feud” (Richard Dawson, host) for 5 episodes – 1979 with R.J., Liz, San, Sheila & Reginald (Richard also traveled with the family to Los Angeles)
- Spiritual Gifts: Administration (organization skills) & Discernment
- Very passionate about children not suffering from hunger
- Enjoyed seeking knowledge and information related to self-help, personal growth, and personal spirituality
- Began preparing Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners after her mother, Lizzie (“Missy”) passed away in 1987. San accepted help with the cooking from other family members as she got older!
- Enjoyed technology – computer research and Excel spreadsheet programming
- Met her best friend, Beverly Edwards, in the consortium elementary school band (they attended different schools) when they were 11 years old. Their mothers have the same first and middle names, and the same birth month and day! San and Beverly were separated with little communication when they entered high school, but they miraculously rekindled their friendship during their junior year in high school. They were both selected by their schools as summer interns at AT&T in downtown Atlanta. They both attended and graduated from Spelman College, and began their careers with AT&T/Southern Bell, but in different cities.



## *Charities & Organizations that San Supported*

Your Move with Andy Stanley  
Feeding America  
American Red Cross  
Hosea Helps & Feed the Hungry  
Landmark Christian School  
Spelman College

### *Pallbearers*

Randy Grier  
Richard Johnson, Jr.  
Reginald Johnson  
Rodrick Johnson  
Fred Strickland  
Zerphyl Worrell

### *Flower Ladies*

Family & Friends



## *Acknowledgements*

The family thanks you for your love and support. We deeply appreciate your kind expressions of sympathy in our time of bereavement.

We thank Murray Brothers Funeral Home and South-View Cemetery for your professional services during this difficult time.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.



*Program lovingly designed by San's daughter, Sharmaine*