



Elton Johnson

March 31, 2010

JOHNSON, Elton of Plant City, Florida died peacefully on March 31, 2010, with his loving family at his bedside. His family came to Florida from Opp, Alabama in 1932 seeking work in the strawberry fields of Plant City. Elton's career progressed from sharecropping to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) and into grading and packing vegetables in south Florida. In 1943, he started his trucking business, delivering produce around Florida and all over the country including markets in Atlanta, New York and Chicago. Elton married Evelyn Ruis of Plant City on April 10, 1951 and began their family with the births of their two sons, Buddy and Freddy. To be closer to home, he opened a SuperTest Gas Station, which would evolve into Johnson's Restaurant, the beginning of a family tradition of southern hospitality and dining that continues on to the present day. Elton sold his restaurant business in 1977 but continued catering banquets and barbecues throughout West Central Florida until 1997 at the age of 82. With his wife at his side, his daily pursuit of excellence is a testament that hard work, commitment to family and community, and great Southern food is a recipe for a long and fulfilling life. It was this relentless pursuit of service to others that he instilled in his sons that is his legacy. He is preceded in death by his parents, Owen Jefferson Pop Fiddlin Babe and Ophelia Electra Johnson, his sisters, Lee Anna Combee, Pearlie Page and Ethel Strednak and his brothers, Arthur and Lamon Johnson. He is survived by his loving and faithful wife, Evelyn Ruis Johnson of 59 years; his son Phillip Elton Buddy Johnson, the co-founder of

BuddyFreddys, former state representative and Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections; his son and daughter-in-law Fred Owen and Tammy Glaros Johnson, owners of Fred s Southern Kitchens; his grandchildren Phillip Johnson, in sales with Lincare Medical; Steven Johnson, in the insurance business in Chicago; Hannah Johnson, adventurist and songwriter; Owen Johnson (Heidi), owner of Johnson Barbeque; Caleb Johnson (Diana) serving with the Hillsborough County Sheriff s Department; Michael Johnson, managing member of Sundown Southern Eatery; his sister, Evelyn Pace and brother and sister-in-law, Red Johnson (Fannie); his great grandchildren Patrick, Cade and Aubrey; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 3 at 11:00 A.M. at Plant City s First Baptist Church, 503 North Palmer Street, Plant City, Florida 33563, where visitation will begin at 10:00. Interment to follow at Memorial Park Cemetery in Plant City. Flowers will be accepted or memorial donations can be made to LifePath Hospice, 12973 Telecom Parkway, Suite 100, Temple Terrace, Florida 33637, Plant City s First Baptist Church, and/or South Florida Baptist Hospital Foundation, 301 N. Alexander Street, Plant City, Florida 33563. Expressions of condolence at www.hopewellfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



Hopewell Funeral Home - January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ Dear Evelyn, Buddy, Freddy and Tammi and extended Johnson family. Our hearts are sad tonight for the loss of a great man and true friend to my mom and dad and the entire Covell family.. Mr. JOhnsen will forever be remembered to our entire family as a wonderful friend to all and inspiration to all who knew and loved him. May he now find peace in heaven and I hope that my dad and grandparents all share a cup of coffee and catch up with Elton! May you all find comfort in the days ahead when you remember all the wonderful memories each of you shared with Elton. God Bless and love and sympathy to all Kathy, Scott and family##imported-begin##Kathy Davis##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ Ms. Evelyn, Buddy, Fred and Family, We're so sorry for your loss! Hope it helps to know that we care and share your grief! May God supply all your needs, strength, courage and a peace from God which surpasses all understanding as only HE can! What a Legend! May your wonderful memories of a loving husband, father, brother, Grandfather, Great-granfather, Uncle and friend, help to bring each of you great comfort in the days, weeks, months and years ahead! Until you see him again with Jesus! Mr. Elton will be sorely missed! Much love, hugs and prayers to you all!##imported-begin##Elton (Sam) and Carol Conrad##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ Ms. Evelyn: My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. He was a wonderful, kind man and will be missed by many. You, and your family, will be in my prayers. God Bless... Linda##imported-begin##Linda Londberg##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ We are sincerely sorry for your lose. Mr. Johnson was a fine man always showing the brightest smile to everyone. Our community has lost a fine man, who will missed by many.##imported-begin##Don and Juanita Vaughan##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ Elton was truly one of the Good Guys. I knew him for over fifty years. He will be missed not only by his family but by many including me. John Ryals##imported-begin##John Ryals##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ Thinking of all of you during the loss of Mr. Johnson. God Bless and take care. Sherry Walker###imported-begin##sherry walker###imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ Aunt Evelyn, Buddy, Freddie, Tammy and Family. How proud you must be of the legacy Uncle Elton has left for your family to carry-on. His name will forever be a legend built on traditions, values and morals that will live on for many generations to come. A fine southern gentleman who was a true example of the word: "gentle man" filled with love and respect for everyone around him. I am deeply honored to have known him and grateful there are so many special people in this family I can call friend. My heartfelt sympathy to you all and may God Bless you as you mourn the loss of your husband, father, brother, uncle and friend. Much Love to you all, Amy Carpenter and Family###imported-begin##Amy Carpenter###imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ We would like to express our sympathy to our Sister-in-Law/Aunt, Evelyn Pace. God Bless and comfort you all. Vivian, Ellen and Lila (Bill's Sister-in-Law and nieces)###imported-begin##Vivian and Ellen Pace###imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM



“ Mrs. Johnson, Buddy, and Fred, You'll are in my thoughts and prayers. I know that with God's help you will be able to over come this emptiness that has been left in your life. Buddy and Fred, Cherish every memory you have of your dad. You each have over some 50 odd years of memories, make sure that you share them with each other, you children and grandchildren. You also need to make the time left with you Mother as special as you can. I speak from experience. My mom has been gone 9 years, my Dad will be 93 tomorrow and I cherish ever moment with him. Again, you are in my prayers and may God keep you close through all of this. Remember, you Dad is in Heaven with God, singing and praising his name. Praying for you, June###imported-begin##June Hawthorne###imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:31 AM