



Howard Johnson

July 21, 1965 - February 15, 2024

Howard Lovell Johnson, age 58, departed this life on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at Connecticut Hospice in Branford, Connecticut, with his wife, Dezi, by his side.

Howie (or ‘HoJo’ as he liked to be called) was born in New Haven, CT on July 21, 1965 to Lottie “Frankie” Johnson and John Winfrey, Sr., who both predeceased him.

A die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan, he was extremely excited to see them play in their stadium in 2016, a gift from Dezi. He was not so excited when Dallas beat the Steelers in the final minutes. He loved sports and was very competitive. He enjoyed watching everything, especially the UCONN women as well as playing. He played baseball and basketball throughout his youth and adulthood and was a force to be reckoned with. He was so fast that the competition hated to see him in the game. He also took pleasure in golfing and bowling (earning the nickname of “Broom Man, because when they won all the games, he would literally taunt the other team by going to get the broom).

Howie was very passionate about cooking and loved creating new dishes and cooking sauces and recipes from scratch. He worked for several years at The Bridgeport Rescue Mission and at Greens Farms Academy until he became ill. He would always say that working those two jobs gave him balance in life by catering equally to the rich and the less fortunate.

Howie was amazing with kids and all the kids loved their Pop-Pop. From disappearing around the block while taking Piper for a walk, to getting in the kiddie pool after throwing Jeremiah in head-first to teaching Micheal how to dance to old school music, to soothing Mariah's crying like no one else could, Howie was in his element and savored every minute with all of them.

Howie was such a loving, protective, forgiving and spiritual man, who was a pitbull when it came to those he loved. He hated drama but he would get his point across. Even through his illness, he would always greet everyone and ask them how THEY were doing. Such a beautiful soul.

Those left to mourn Howie are his loving wife, Gervaldez "Dezi" Johnson; his stepsons, Korey, Jeremy, and LaVante; several grandchildren, whom he adored; his best friend/brother from another mother, Mark Hanks; his goddaughter, Piper; his siblings Phyllis (Lou) Castillo, Edie Johnson, Marvin "Jack" (Bernadette) Johnson, and Addie (DeWitt) Stevens; and sisters-in-law, Barbara Johnson and Sharon Winfrey. He also leaves numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

In addition to his parents, Howie was predeceased by siblings, Linda Johnson, William "Floyd" Johnson, Charles "Red" Johnson, Deloris "Tootsie" Simmons, John Winfrey, Jr., Yvonne (George) Williams and Adrian Winfrey.

. Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 11:00AM - 1:00PM followed by a service of celebration at 1:00PM at East End Baptist Tabernacle, 548 Central Ave., Bridgeport, CT., Rev. Dr. Charles L. Stallworth, officiant. Interment will be private.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 24. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

East End Baptist Church
Bridgeport, CT

Service

FEB 24. 1:00 PM.

East End Baptist Church
Bridgeport, CT

Tribute Wall

TN

“ I just learned that Howard had passed away. Even though I only knew Howard for a short period of time, but he has left a lasting memory. Kind soul with a good heart who was so appreciative for whatever came his way. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Desi and family. May he rest in peace in the arms of the angels.

Tina Nardi - March 29, 2024 at 09:02 AM

DJ

Thank you so much for your kind words. Howard had a wonderful spirit and he was so appreciative of all the blessings around him. He is missed and my belief is that the angels welcomed him with open arms.

Dezi Johnson - May 30, 2024 at 10:56 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album Greens Farms Academy



Scott - March 06, 2024 at 01:31 PM

DJ

My handsome guardian angel. Thank you, Scott, for sharing this picture and THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LOVE AND SUPPORT AND RESPECT THAT YOU ALWAYS GAVE TO HOWARD. He loved and appreciated you so much and also his kitchen family. God bless you all so very much.

Dezi Johnson - June 02, 2024 at 10:40 AM

MJ

“ *Sending my condolences to Desi and the Jonson family on the loss of your loved one. May God lead you and guide you during this difficult time*

Michele Jones - March 05, 2024 at 04:24 PM

DJ

Thank you so much Michele

Dezi Johnson - June 02, 2024 at 10:41 AM

GG

“ *Howard was such a beautiful presence at GFA. He was so kind and warm and clearly cared deeply about his work. I am sorry to hear of his passing and send my deep condolences to his family and friends.*

Gail Greiner - February 25, 2024 at 10:47 AM

DJ

He cared so much about the students and the staff that he met over the years. When he talked about GFA, his face glowed. I am forever grateful for all the love that was shown to him every day, even to the end. Thank you for sharing your kind words, Gail Greiner

Dezi Johnson - June 02, 2024 at 10:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Howard Johnson.*



February 24, 2024 at 10:30 AM

SF

“ Steele family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Johnson.

Steele family - February 24, 2024 at 10:30 AM

WL

“ Wanda Livingston sent a virtual gift in memory of Howard Johnson



Wanda Livingston - February 24, 2024 at 07:15 AM

LK

“ To Dezi and the Johnson family my sincere condolences of the passing of Howard my prayers are with you Laura Knapp

Laura Knapp - February 23, 2024 at 05:45 PM

DJ

Thank you, Laura

Dezi Johnson - June 02, 2024 at 10:48 AM

MF

“ Michelle Guzda & Family purchased the Three Cross Throw for the family of Howard Johnson.



Michelle Guzda & Family - February 23, 2024 at 05:00 PM