



## Rhea King Johnston

January 5, 1936 - March 5, 2024

Rhea King Johnston 88. of Towanda, passed away peacefully in her home Tuesday morning March 5, 2024. Born January 5, 1936 as Rhea Jean King she was 13th of 15 children whose parents were John Devlin and Bessie Harbst King both of Towanda. She attended school in Towanda. In 1952 she married Elston Champluvier of Laceyville, Pa. She graduated in 1953 and gave birth to a son, Elston Paul Champluvier. The following year she had another son, Francis Lee Champluvier, who passed shortly after birth. Then in 1957 she had a daughter, Calista Rae Champluvier. She separated from Elston later that year and divorced in 1962. She married William Lane Johnston in October of 1962, and in gave birth to 2 daughters, Gladys Anne Johnston in 1963 and Heather Lynn Johnston in 1965. She was widowed in 1986 with the passing of W. Lane Johnston. She worked at Ryan's Restaurant in Towanda from 1957 to 1960, when she started as a switchboard operator for Commonwealth Telephone, leaving in 1990 after 30 years of service.

She then became a caseworker for the Bradford County Assistance Office in 1991, where she worked until retirement.

She was a faithful member of the United Presbyterian Church, where she was a Sunday

School teacher, served as a Deacon, and was a member of the choir. Her faith gave her much peace throughout her life. She loved children and enjoyed helping out in the nursery.

She also enjoyed music. Along with choir she was a member of the Holiday Melodies. She loved to sing and knew a song for every occasion. Ice cream was another favorite enjoyment.

She had many fond memories of the ice cream shop her sister and mother managed, and of her father hiding ice cream in the mailbox for the kids to find.

She was an active member of the community, belonging to many local clubs, starting in

school with Girl Scouts and the Future Homemakers of America where she won first place for

her apple pandowdy. She also belonged to the former Quarry Glen Club, the Towanda Gun club,

the American Legion, the Bradford County Historical Society, and others including the garden

club which was one of her favorite activities.

She cared a lot about the area and the people, and will be greatly missed.

Especially for her

volunteer work including: working the the election board, soliciting for the heart fund and

unicef, the gift shop at the hospital, and more. She was very proud of donating over a gallon of

blood to the red cross throughout her life.

She is survived by her sister Dixie Cabucci of Towanda, 3 daughters; Calista Rae

Champluvier of Dallas Pa, Gladys Anne Johnston of Towanda, and Heather Lynn Johnston of

Montrose , 10 grand children; Matthew Davidson, Nicholas Davidson, Kerstian Blaisure

Campbell, Alexis Kinney, Christopher Gruver, Lauren Gruver, Jesse Gruver, Chenay Champluvier,

1

Melinda Champluvier, and Breanna Champluvier, one great-grandson Elliott Campbell, and

several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband W. Lane Johnston, her parents John and Bessie

King, in-laws G. Gwin and Cornelius Johnston, 8 brothers; D. Gabriel King, Edwin King, J. Ray

King, A. Benjamin King, Monte King, W. T. (Bud) King, Tom King, and George King, 5 sisters;

Lydia King Leonard, Marge King Mansfield, Mary King Johnson, Frances (Pete) and Velma King.

Two Sons Francis Lee and Paul Champluvier. One great granddaughter Meikah Gruver.

Rhea's wishes were for no services. There will be an open house announced in the near

future for anyone who would like to come. The family requests that memorials may be directed

to the charity of one's choice in Rhea Johnston's memory. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting [www.bowenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bowenfuneralhomes.com).

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



**Calista Champluvier** - March 14, 2024 at 12:53 PM

CG

“ Our deepest sympathy to you all, Rhea's family. We have fond memories of her at church especially her loving care of our kids in the preschool nursery. She has been missed at church. Cathy & Dave Guffey

**Cathy Guffey** - March 13, 2024 at 03:16 PM

GJ

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



**Gladys Johnston** - March 13, 2024 at 08:27 AM

KS

“ *RIP sweet lady. So sorry for your loss. I remember her and all the king family. My brother and I would always go to her mama's house every Sunday to visit. We would always go to the family gatherings in the summer. They were a very nice family and enjoyed visiting with all of them. God bless*

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**Kathy Stephenson** - March 12, 2024 at 11:25 AM

SR

“ *Aunt Rhea always ate healthy. I remember her putting carrots & other vegetabkes in the blender & drinking it. She was always so calm & collected. We will all miss this sweet lady*

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**Shirlee Elliott Raisch** - March 12, 2024 at 08:29 AM