

Memorial Service



In loving memory of

Niniwar Ann Brown

February 5, 1924 - January 1, 2026

Order of Service

Ray's Temple Church of God In Christ - Lancaster, PA

Rev. Dr. Wendell Yorkman Officiant

January 17, 2026 10:00 am

Opening Hymn
Blessed Assurance

Scripture

Old Testament: Dr. Patricia Hughes Jones - Psalms 23

New Testament: Minister Joyceann Thomas - II Timothy 4:7-8

Prayer of Comfort

Reflections

Mr. Stanley Brown - Son

Ms. Frankie Hughes - Family Friend/Bonus Daughter

Acknowledgements

Condolences, Cards, & Obituary

Ms. Armenta L. Washington - Granddaughter

Sermonic Selection

Ms. Delphine Butcher

Eulogy

Rev. Dr. Louis Butcher, Sr.

Benediction

Closing Hymn & Recessional
"I'll Fly Away"

Internment: Mellinger Cemetery 1916 Lincoln Hwy. 17602

Rite of Committal - Minister Nathaniel P. Gillespie

Ninivar Ann Brown, age 101, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 1, 2026, . She was born on February 5, 1924 in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to the late Robert and Emily Young.

As part of the Great Migration, Ninivar moved with her mother to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in her early teens. Her parents met an untimely death, passing within one year of each other, leaving young Ninivar and her Brother Converse Young to lean on each other for consolation. She was lovingly raised by her uncle and aunt, Howard and Wanetta Lucas, lifelong members of Ray's Temple Church of God in Christ, where they nurtured not only their own children, but countless family members.

Ninivar was educated in Lancaster City Schools and attended J.P. McCaskey High School. She was active in the Lancaster's Conestoga Elks Lodge #137 - Queen of Sheba, where she was first in the charter to hold the title of "Daughter Ruler."

Affectionately known as Ms. Nin, she was undeniably one of Lancaster's legendary fashion icons. Anyone who bore witness would tell you—she was sharp every day, best remembered for her keen eye and stylish fashion. Young ladies in the neighborhood looked forward to seeing her come out on Saturday so they could see what she was wearing. Many say they admired her style and sought to emulate it. She was a talented seamstress and made many of her own clothes. She also made full-length drapes for friends and neighbors. She carried herself with confidence, and was always unapologetically herself. Among her many hidden talents, cooking was her love language. Her red rice and pasta seafood salad were often imitated—but never duplicated. A master bargain shopper, she could recount every discounted store up and down the East Coast.







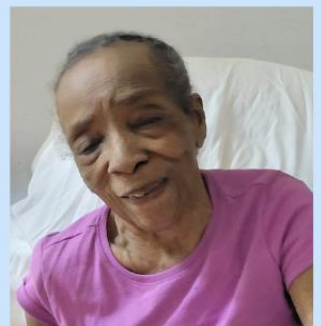
Determined to stay active and healthy well into her mid-90s, she could often be found tending her yard and maintaining an immaculate home. Ms. Nin was known to work long hours in her yard, even in the hot sun or cool temperatures and the neighbors would beg her to go inside. She would tell neighbors, family, and friends alike; If you want to live long you have to get up and move." Tiny but mighty, she had a ready—set—go temperament, ready to defend those she loved at a moments notice.

Dr. William "Bill" Cosby once said, "You won't know what type of parent you have been until you see your grandchildren." True to that sentiment, Nin was a different grandmother than she was a mother. Affectionately known as "Grams," she sought redemption through the love she expressed to her grand children, fur grand babies, and an occasional stary cat. From time to time, different grand children would come stay with her when she relocated to the Bronx (NYC). She did her best to be a steady and nurturing presence for her grandchildren.

Ms. Nin leaves to cherish her memory; daughters, Annette Newsome-Hepburn and Pamela L. Brown; her sons, Albert "Sonny" Brown and Stanley Brown (Theresa); along with 15 Grandchildren, 8 Great Grandchildren, and 2 Great Great Grandchildren, extended family, and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Brown; her daughters, Cecelia Dunmeyer and Ramilee Washington; her son, George "Trent" Porter, her brother Converse Young, and her beloved grand daughter Selina A. Brown.

When she dispensed her wisdom, she would start by saying, "Let me tell you something". Then she would tell you that the old ways were superior to all the new inventions. No one dared to challenge what she said because she was the matriarch, and her word was the gospel. So we leave you with a piece of her enduring mother wit:

*" I lived my life now go live yours"
Forever In our hearts*





One day, if you ever ask me what kind of mom I was... I'll tell you I tried my best. But if you asked me to be honest, I'd say this: I'm sorry for the days I let overwhelm speak louder than love. I'm sorry for the moments my patience ran thin, and you felt the weight of things that were never yours to carry. I'm sorry for the unhealed parts of me that sometimes spilled into your world. But please remember this above everything else, I loved you in every version of me. Through every season, every mistake, every messy moment. Because you, my child, have always been the softest part of my life, and the greatest thing I have ever had the privilege to love.

You were my first teacher, my biggest blessing, and my constant reminder that love isn't about perfection; it's about showing up, even when it's hard. I'm sorry for the times I wasn't softer, for the times I wasn't more patient, for the times I let fear dictate my actions. But I'm grateful for the moments we laughed together, for the memories we created, and for the love that only grows stronger with time. You deserve all the apologies and all the love, — and I spent the rest of my life trying to give you both.

Please don't let my imperfections dim the light you bring into the world .

Author Unknown



Pallbearers

Mitchell G. Washington, Jr.

Min. Nathaniel P. Gillespie

Steven C. Houston

Nelson Polite, Jr.

Ray Fernandez

Nathan Wright

The family would like to thank you by expressing our deep appreciation during this difficult time:

Ray's Temple COGIC

Pastor Jerome Hayes

Sister Jeanette Smith, Trustee

Clergy, officiants, soloist, and pallbearers

The staff at Abbeyville Skilled Nursing:

Henry Maina

Gwen Boots

Mahir Green

Jaliesa King

Tracy Beecher

Wright Funeral Services

Those who called, texted, prayed, provided moral supported, sent flowers, made donations, offered help and assistance, and all in attendance!