

# A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF



## PALLBEARERS

Joe Davis - Donald Dees - Tony Dees - Steven Dees  
Chris Martin - Ben Jolliff - Jonathan DeShields

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, the family of Vanessa R. Brown, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of kindness, prayers, flowers, calls, comforting messages, and support shown during this difficult time. We are truly grateful for each expression of sympathy. Your love and compassion have meant more to us than words can express, and will always be remembered. May God continue to bless each of you.

## REPAST

The Family will proceed to the auditorium following the service

**VANESSA  
RENAE BROWN**

1973 – 2026

TUESDAY – MARCH 24, 2026

VISITATION: 11:00 AM  
SERVICE: 12:00 PM

POTTER'S HOUSE CHURCH OF GOD  
3220 LOWELL DRIVE  
COLUMBUS, OH 43204



**MARLAN GARY  
FUNERAL HOME**

1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

### MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

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## Mi Mariposa

The name Vanessa means “butterfly” and Mi Mariposa is Spanish for “my butterfly”.

Like the butterfly Vanessa brings with her a little something that she gathered from the last place she visited. This ‘little something’ that she brings is what is usually needed to help the ones she is visiting to grow and expand in their knowledge. She usually takes a little something with her when she leaves to take to the next place she visits. Who knows who will need what she has gleaned from her journey.

She may not stay long but she leaves a lingering memory of a beauty that comes from within and above. When it is thought that she is gone for good, she always reappears, seemingly by chance, just where and when she is needed. And like the butterfly, Vanessa is welcomed, for it is a joy to see her come as people enjoy her presence. The world has needed the beauty that Vanessa has shared in the service of the Lord. Vanessa served that purpose with the life she lived.





## OBITUARY

Vanessa R. (Carter) Brown entered this world in Pensacola, Florida, a radiant soul born to Robert Carter, Sr. and Katherine Carter. From her earliest days, her light was unmistakable. As a young girl at Damascus Missionary Baptist Church in Flomaton, Alabama, she gave her life to the Lord—beginning a lifelong walk of faith, leadership and music.

A gifted student and determined achiever, Vanessa graduated from Southern Normal School and later earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management from Ohio Christian University, graduating with honors in both high school and college. Her commitment to growth continued throughout her life, culminating in countless certifications and the completion of the Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Program in 2026.

Throughout her professional career, Vanessa worked in Property Management, Building Management, Human Resource Management, and most recently as an Accounting Technician for DFAS. She was also the proud owner of VB Consulting Group, LLC where she poured her creativity and passion into projects that reflected her love for people and life.

In 2014, Vanessa married her beloved husband, Derek L. Brown. Together they built a life filled with faith, family, music and love.

Vanessa was a dedicated member of Potter's House Church of God in Columbus, Ohio, where she faithfully served as a member of the Praise Team and Choir. Her love for worship and music was evident to all who heard her sing. Her musical gifts extended beyond church as well—Vanessa sang background vocals on countless musical projects and released her first single with her husband in December 2021 titled "*Savior of the World.*"

Vanessa was a remarkable cook, a natural nurturer, who had many passions that brought joy to those around her. She loved singing, dancing, cooking creative meals for family and friends, her plants, wood working, reading, gardening, DIY projects and home decor.

She leaves behind a family who adored her: her *Husband* of 11 years: Derek L. Brown; her *Mother*: Katherine Spencer; her *Father*: Robert Carter, Sr. (Inez); her *Brothers*: Robert Carter, Jr. and Ronald Carter (Rosa); her *Sister*: Candace Carter; and her *Stepson*: Derek X. Brown. She was the proud "Nonna" to the apple of her eye - her *Grandson*: Tamir, and a loving *Godmother To*: RJ, Royce and Roya. She is also remembered by a host of *family members* and *friends* whose lives she touched deeply.

Vanessa, our beautiful butterfly—graceful, vibrant, and full of life. She moved through this world with kindness, resourcefulness, and a heart anchored in Jesus. Her light was steady and warm, her smile bright and contagious, illuminating the lives she encountered. Though our hearts ache in her absence, we rejoice in knowing she is now singing with the angelic choir, her voice lifted in perfect praise. Vanessa's melody lives on in all of us.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Pastor Michael Oldfield  
Officiant - Eulogist

Organ Prelude.....Potter's House Music Ministry

Parting View.....The Family

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Proverbs 31:10-31..... Penny Brown

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.....John Walker

Prayer.....Immanuel Ademu-John

Selection.....Potter's House Praise & Worship Team

Acknowledgements/Condolences.....Terri Waugh

Remarks.....Ashley Deadwyler-Jones

Pastor David Oldfield

Tre Norman

Jarrod Moore

Jordan Glover

Reading of Obituary.....Read Silently

Selection....."FOV" Friends of Vanessa

The Eulogy

Pastor Michael Oldfield  
Potter's House Church of God

Benediction.....Pastor Michael Oldfield

Recessional.....Clergy, Family & Friends