



CARRIE

Loma Secret

CLASS IN SESSION
MARCH 29, 1942

CLASS DISMISSED
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
10:00 AM
CITY OF REFUGE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
3901 MEADOWS LANE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89107

REMEMBERING
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
CARRIE
Loma Secret



Blessed! On Easter Sunday, March 29, 1942, Carrie Loma Secret was blessed to be added to the family of Roscoe and Louise Secret in Omaha, Nebraska. Carrie received her early education at Kellom Elementary School and Technical Junior High School and graduated from Central High School in June 1960.

At the age of 10, Carrie accepted Christ and knew no other way of life. She was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost during a revival under the leadership of Mother Luxola Williams at Grace Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in Omaha, Nebraska, under the leadership of Bishop Monte Bradford.

From an early age, Carrie was a diligent and faithful participant in the work of the church. She served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member locally and jurisdictionally, and, at only 18 years old, as a State Purity Class leader. She fondly remembered her years at Grace Tabernacle, including the training she received and the opportunity to travel to national church conventions with Jeannie, Kathy, Marvie, and Lennie. With the Bishop's blessing, Carrie and her family helped rebuild and grow New Bethel COGIC, under Pastor Elias C. Cooper, where she remained until relocating to California.

Carrie graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in February 1966 with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Humanities. After graduation, she migrated to Oakland, California, where she lived with Jacob and Lennie (Pace) Perry as she began the next chapter of her life. In Oakland, Carrie united with Mingleton Temple COGIC under the leadership of Elder V. F. Devers and later Pastor Johnny and Lady Alice Evans.



Carrie was immediately hired by the Oakland Unified School District as a classroom teacher. What began as a career became a 45-year legacy of educating and empowering children. For decades, she taught at Prescott Elementary School, where she worked with generations of students and became a treasured part of the Prescott community.

On October 18, 1977, Carrie met Arnold Eugene Blueford. From that relationship came her beloved son, Jaron Secret Blueford, whom she often declared was the greatest accomplishment of her life.

Through Jaron, Carrie was blessed to become a grandmother to Liaya Nichole (Jehan), Diamonique Rose, and Jalen (Donielle). She was deeply involved in their lives and played an especially important role in helping raise Diamonique and Jalen following the death of their mother, Donielle.

In 1990, Carrie earned a Master's Degree from United States International University. She continued her professional development through extensive educational coursework, earning Ph.D.-equivalent recognition through the school district based on her years of advanced study and professional development.



Carrie's educational work gained national and international attention during the 1996–1997 Ebonics controversy. Her classroom became a model observed by educators and others interested in innovative approaches to language instruction. Long before the Oakland School Board's landmark resolution, Carrie was validating her students' home dialects while teaching them how to translate those expressions into standard public-forum English. She believed that a child's language and culture should never be treated as a measure of intelligence. Instead, she used students' home language as a bridge to help them master standard English. Her teaching incorporated identity affirmation, community observation, and progressive instructional strategies designed to help children succeed.



Her work produced measurable results and opened doors for her to present workshops to school districts throughout the United States. Carrie also served as a professor at the University of California and the University of San Francisco.



In 2008, Carrie retired from the Oakland Unified School District and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. She became a member of Bethesda Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Pastor Daryl and Lady Sandra Harris. Carrie, fondly known as Auntie Carrie, loved her Bethesda church family dearly. She would often say, with her characteristic conviction, "I will fight air about Bethesda!"

Her love for education never left her. In 2017, through her relationship with her church leaders, Carrie met Marcus Mason, then principal of Booker Elementary School. He hired her immediately to help students strengthen foundational reading skills. Carrie served at Booker Elementary until the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools in March 2020.

But Carrie was still not finished teaching! She brought her passion for reading to Bethesda's tutoring program, where she helped students make remarkable progress. Some students advanced from reading only two words per minute to 18 words per minute. Test scores improved, but perhaps even more importantly, students' confidence and self-esteem were restored.

In July 2026, Carrie joined other educators at Bethesda in reimagining the reading initiative, which became "Seeds of Sound," a program designed to begin nurturing literacy by encouraging parents to read to their children beginning during pregnancy.

Carrie was always, in her words and Bethesda's, a "member in GOOD standing!" And in true Carrie fashion, there is a story behind that too. She originally wrote "GREAT standing," then scratched out "GREAT" because, as she explained, she wanted to be kind to all the other members!

With all of her educational accomplishments and professional expertise, Carrie never stopped serving the church she loved. She was a fierce supporter of her leaders and her ministry. She seldom missed a service and never missed an event. Carrie served on the Mother's Board, Trustee Board, and as a Senior Advisor to the Women's Department. She faithfully attended Women's Conferences, Women's Retreats, Pastor and Wife Appreciations, Church Anniversaries, District and Jurisdictional services, and countless other gatherings. Even in her mature years, Carrie remembered what her parents had taught her: love God and show that love through how you serve.



She often said that she refused to be “a mean old woman.” Instead, she encouraged young people, supported their growth, and made herself available to help whenever she could

Many will remember Carrie by her unforgettable sayings:

“My car knows its way home!”

“If I wear it together, it goes together.”

And when someone complimented her beautiful attire, she would simply respond:

“I know!”

That was Carrie.



She was the epitome of a lady. She loved beautiful shoes—especially high heels—wonderful fragrances, and fine clothing. Yet, without hesitation, this beautifully dressed woman could plop down on the floor to help a child learn to read. She was elegant, determined, brilliant, funny, faithful, and unapologetically herself.

Carrie Loma Secret leaves a legacy that reaches far beyond the classrooms where she taught. Her life touched churches, schools, educators, children, families, and generations of learners. She demonstrated that faith and education could walk hand in hand, and that excellence in one’s profession never excuses us from serving God and others.

Carrie was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Mother Louise and Deacon Roscoe Secret, Sr.; her brothers, Dr. Phillip Secret, Roscoe Secret, Jr., and Lamond Secret; her sister, Annette Secret; and her niece, Tihesha Secret. She was also preceded in death by her grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other loved ones who helped shape her life and whose memories she carried with her throughout the years.

Carrie leaves to cherish her memory: Her beloved son, Jaron (Cameran); Her grandchildren, Liaya of Auburn Hills, Michigan, Diamonique, and Jalen of Las Vegas, Nevada; Her sister, Roxie Idelle Alred of Omaha, Nebraska; Her brother, Akil (Laverne) Secret of Atlanta, Georgia; Her sister-in-love, Cheryl Secret of Omaha, Nebraska; Her sister-cousin, Lennie (Samuel) Pace McQueen of Oakland, California; Her goddaughter, Jacolyn “Jacki” (Joseph “Dwayne”) Hogans of Las Vegas, Nevada; Her godson, Roderick (Twanna) Rogers of Oakland, California; The faculty, staff, and students of Prescott Elementary School and Booker Elementary School; Her beloved Bethesda family; And a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, former students, colleagues, and others whose lives were blessed by her presence.

Carrie lived a life of faith, service, education, elegance, humor, and love.

She taught children how to read, taught educators how to see possibility, encouraged young people to become their best, and showed generations what it looks like to love God through service.

A faithful servant. A gifted educator. A devoted mother and grandmother. A beloved church mother. A lady in every sense of the word. A member in GOOD standing. And yes, Carrie—we know!



CELEBRATING
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
CARRIE
Loma Secret

Co - Officiants

Elder Ender Austin, III and Evangelist Samantha E. Nash

Musical Prelude

Processional.....Clergy and The Family of Carrie Loma Secret

Prayer of Comfort.....Adm. Asst. David W. Webb

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:28-31.....Pastor Destenee Hogans

2 Corinthians 4:16-18.....Minister Thojaé Peoples

Tributes from Those She Knew Well.....Mr. Darnarryl Evans,
Ms. Aisha Mays & Mr. Ronald “Buddy” Muhammad

Musical Selection.....Bethesda COGIC Praise Team

Words of Comfort.....District Missionary Kassondra Perry-Weaver
Mother Arlesha Freeman

Musical Selection.....Bethesda COGIC Praise Team

Expressions from Those Who Knew Her Well

Friends.....Ms.Rosalind Johnson

Church.....Sister Tawanda Butler, Sister Leslie Coleman, & Sister Angela Mathis

Family.....Ms. Liaya Blueford, Sister Lennie McQueen & Mr. Akil Secret

Resolutions & Cards.....Mrs.Kinda Abdus-Saboor, Ms.Meishe Kay Thirus

Special Tribute.....Bishop Donald C. Bronson
Prelate, Nevada First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction COGIC, Inc.

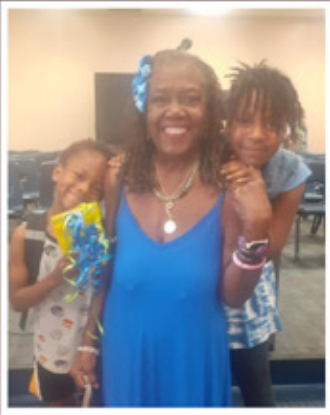
Sermonic Selection.....Gateway District Choir

Message of Hope.....Adm. Asst. Daryl E. Harris
Founder and Sr. Pastor, Bethesda COGIC

Recessional







HONORING
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
CARRIE
Loma Secret

TRIBUTE FROM LIAYA
(HER GRANDDAUGHTER)

When I was young, I struggled to understand why my family did not look like everyone else's. I often felt alone. I wondered why our Thanksgiving dinners had only two attendees, or why I was sent to be babysat by my mother's coworker rather than another family member. There was a time in my life when it felt as though the only family I had was my mommy... and my granny.

My granny helped raise me. Although I only see them in the summertime, she connected me to a family that gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to belong. She taught me the value of reading. She taught me the importance of intelligence. But most importantly, she taught me the value of kindness.

My granny was kind. She was always there for people in need. She knew how to turn strangers into family. She knew how to make me laugh, and I knew how to make her laugh. She planned my birthday parties, played games with me, watched movies and T.V. with me (So You Think You Can Dance!), and took me to fun places (including Marshalls, Ross, and Nordstrom Rack). She even pretended to be interested when I spent hours strutting across the living room in my newest fashion looks.

I would put on performances for her—dancing, singing, drawing—and she made me feel like I got the Golden Buzzer on America's Got Talent. She fueled my creativity and encouraged me to be unapologetically myself. She remained patient through my pubescent mood swings. She held me when I cried. I could talk to her about anything. She made me feel special.

But I wasn't the only one who felt that way.

My granny touched the lives of countless people. Her kindness extended far beyond our family, reaching anyone lucky enough to cross her path. She had a way of making people feel seen, welcomed, and loved. She showed me that family is not defined solely by blood, but also by the people who choose to show up, who nurture you, who believe in you, and who love you unconditionally.

Every day, I aspire to be like my granny—not only because of how deeply she loved me, but because of how deeply she loved others. She taught me that the greatest impact we can have on the world is not always measured by what we accomplish, but by how we make people feel. I hope that, throughout my life, I can carry her kindness with me and make others feel the same way she made me feel: loved entirely.

TRIBUTE FROM DIAMONIQUE (HER GRANDDAUGHTER)

Granny,

I'm pretty sure if you looked up "amazing" in the dictionary, there'd just be a picture of you. Starting high school this year has been a huge adjustment, and honestly, half the time I feel completely lost. But no matter how chaotic life gets, between endless homework, weird high school drama, and trying to figure out where I'm supposed to be, knowing you're in my corner makes everything a whole lot easier.

You're easily the most resilient, loving, and hilarious person I know. You have this way of making everyone around you feel instantly at home. Your advice is always spot-on, your stories are unmatched, and your patience is basically a superpower.

Thank you for always listening, for supporting me through every phase, and for being the anchor of our family. I'm so grateful to be your granddaughter, and I hope I make you proud this year and every year after.

Love you to the moon and back, Granny. You truly are the best.

TRIBUTE FROM JALEN (HER GRANDSON)

I love you Granny. Thank you for taking us places like Flip'N'Out and taking us to get ice cream. You always helped me with my homework and learning. You made sure I looked good and you prayed for me. I miss you and want you to come back.

YOUR CAR KNEW THE WAY HOME

You said this often after a long day of fellowship, food and laughs. Once the sun started to settle behind the mountain, we could look at you and see the signs. You started yawning. You'd start braiding your hair. We would look at you and say, "Do you need someone to drive you?" And that was your response. "My car knows the way home." As reluctant as we were at times you always made it.

And as funny as it was, it really sinks in now. You had gone up that hill many a time before, trekking the mountains, facing the imminent darkness of outside, with your purse slung over your shoulder you drove on because your car knew the way.

Anyone who knew you knew you took the same streets to get to those places you frequented, and now, more than ever, I know you had been preparing for this long before now. You had become familiar with the landmarks, the potholes and even the seemingly hidden stop signs. None of it intimidating, nothing you had never faced before because your car knew the way home. Even up until your last trek up that hill.

We are hurting, but we saw the signs, the yawning.. we were reluctant, but we saw the signs, the braiding of your hair and we are devastated, but we saw the signs of the sun going down. And just like every other time, your response was, "My car knows the way home."

Auntie Carrie, words alone cannot describe the gaping hole you have left in the Earth, but 1 thing for certain and 2 things for sure, your car knew the way home. It was washed, had a full tank of gas and a fresh oil change. You drove that hilariously sassy, stylishly brilliant, creatively passionate car well. Now you can finally rest.

Aspiring Missionary Lenita Austin

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Mr. Mosi Secret, Mr. Kamal Secret, Mr. Troi Perry, Elder Fitzroy Winters, Mr. Joseph "DJ" Hogans, Jr., Mr. Darius Hogans, Mr. Daniel Harris, and Mr. Michael McQueen

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Mr. Akil Secret, Mr. Samuel McQueen, Mr. Joseph Hogans, Sr., Elder Glenn Gilliard, Elder Ender Austin, III, Elder Corey Brown, Deacon Archie Hayes, Deacon David Ross, and Deacon Larry Thomas, Jr.

FLOWERBEARERS

Sister Roxy Idell Alred, Mrs. Rosalind Johnson, Sister Lennie McQueen, Mrs. Laverne Secret, Lady Sandra Harris, Sister Cheryl Secret, and Bethesda COGIC Mother's Board

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Family of Mother Carrie Loma Secret is overwhelmed by the love expressed during this difficult time. Her life has so deeply impacted so many, and we have been strengthened by hearing your reflections and warm memories. Thank you for loving her and, by extension, loving us. Words truly fail us, but your love has carried us during this journey. Thank you, Pastor Daryl and Lady Sandra Harris and the entire Bethesda Family; Bishop Donald and Lady Janet Bronson and the City of Refuge COGIC Family; Pastor Leroy and Lady Felicia Carr and the Friendship COGIC Family.

INTERMENT

Bunker's Memory Gardens Cemetery
7251 W Lone Mountain Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89129

REPAST

Friendship COGIC
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