

*Celebrating the
Life of*



Gardenia V. Shelton

August 23, 1945 – January 23, 2026

Obituary

Gardenia Victoria Brown Shelton, lovingly known as “Grammy,” passed away peacefully on January 23, 2026, at Paoli Hospital, surrounded by family. Born in Coatesville, PA, to Ashby Lee and Grace Esther Gibbs Brown, she was raised by her grandmother, Mary Frances Turner Brown, after the early loss of her mother. From her grandmother, Gardenia learned faith, responsibility, love for family, and respect for others—values that shaped her life.

Gardenia’s faith was her foundation. She attended Union Baptist Church (now known as New Life in Christ Fellowship) early on under Rev. A. Joseph, and she later reaffirmed her faith under Rev. William T. Grier Jr. In 1988, she found her church home at Trinity United Bible Church, where she served faithfully under Pastor Kevin McCoy Hunt. Known as the “candy lady,” she delighted in sharing her Ziploc bags of treats down the pews.



A devoted mother, Gardenia raised five daughters, instilling in them independence, discipline, and a deep respect for education. Wanting to lead by example, she quietly enrolled in a GED program and, in 1998, proudly graduated as valedictorian—one of her greatest personal accomplishments.

Music filled Gardenia's life and home. In her younger years, she sang in a local band and loved artists like Gladys Knight, Marvin Gaye, and Stevie Wonder. As her faith matured, gospel music became central to her joy. She loved The Hawkins, Andrae Crouch, Albertina Walker, and songs such as "God Is" by James Cleveland and "I'm Going Home" by Rance Allen. Saturdays often meant music, cleaning, and laughter—memories her daughters cherish deeply.

Gardenia was also a gifted hairstylist, famous in the community for her intricate braids—pineapples, stars, names, and initials. Once she braided your hair, you were the envy of the neighborhood. This talent was lovingly passed down to her daughters.

Gardenia became a grandmother, and her new title of "Grammy" brought her even more joy. She was blessed with nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, each one holding a special place in her heart. She was committed to teaching them about the Lord, even organizing impromptu choir practices and Bible verse recitations, ensuring they were grounded in their faith.

Known for her competitive spirit in games like Boggle and Uno, Gardenia was also famous for her cooking—especially her deviled eggs, sweet potato and apple pies, and collard greens, which she shared with family and friends, including her doctors' office staff.



She worked for many years at Jimmy Lee's Store and later at G&C Music Store, where she was embraced as family by dear friends Gene and Christine Hyden. Though she never drove, Gardenia always got where she needed to go—and was often the first to arrive. She shared a special bond with her caregiver, Sharon Morgan-Cox, and her beloved "brother," Irvin Taylor, whose friendship meant the world to her.

After additional surgery in 2018, Gardenia transitioned to Tel Hai Nursing Home, where she continued to shine brightly. During the pandemic, God blessed her with new friendships that sustained her until the end. Even as her health declined, she continued ministering through prayer, encouragement, and witnessing wherever she was.

Gardenia was known for her joyful spirit and her signature words: "I'm blessed." She ended every conversation the same way—"Be blessed," and "To God be the glory, forevermore."

Gardenia leaves behind a legacy of faith, love, service, and quiet strength. She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband, Sherman Shelton, five daughters: Traci A. Shelton; Erica D. Brickus (Reginald); Trevoh S. Shelton; Amina R. Gilchrist (Kenneth); and Francesca M. E. She is also survived by



her siblings: Gregory Brown; Barbara Brown; Lamont Thomas; Rodney Hansley; Shawn Brown; Maurice Brown; and Crystal Daily (Al).

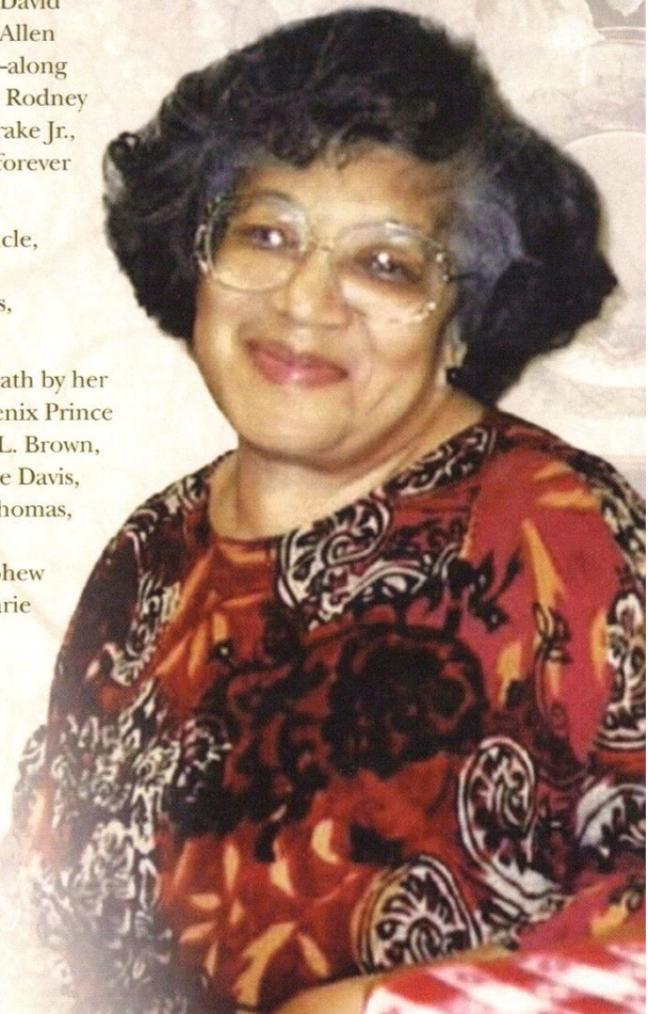
Her beloved grandchildren—Tracina, Greg, and Adrienne Shelton, Musheerah and Amir Brake, David and Derrick Winkey, Trente' Allen (Donald), and Jada Brickus—along with her great grandchildren Rodney Shelton, Azuri Pugh, Amir Brake Jr., Skylar and Xavier Allen, will forever carry her love forward.

She is also survived by her uncle, Charles Gibbs, and a host of godchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Gardenia was preceded in death by her parents; great-grandson Phoenix Prince Kornegay, her siblings Lewis L. Brown, Ashby L. Brown, Mary Maxine Davis, Sandra D. Rollins, Clifford Thomas, Joann M. Roy, Sharon A. Gary, and Larry Hansley; nephew Phillip Brown; niece Tina Marie Thomas; and grandnephew Brian Keith Brown.

Sorrowfully Submitted,

The Family



Order of Service

Musician: *Elder Irvin C. Taylor*

Officiating Clergy: *Pastor Kevin McCoy Hunt*

Opening Hymn: *Oh, I Want To See Him*

Prayer of Comfort: *Elder Montez O. Jones*

Scripture: *Psalm 40:1-2*

Tribute: *Mark Behm, Friend*

Musical Selection

Resolutions: *Kathy Anthony*

Scripture: *Psalm 28*

Tribute: *Sharon Morgan-Cox, Friend*

Musical Selection

Obituary: *Trevoh Shelton*

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 10:31*

Tribute: *Azuri Pugh, Great Grandson*

Musical Selection

Words of Comfort: *Clergy*

Scripture: *1 Thessalonians 4:16*

Tribute: *Amir Brake, Grandson*

Musical Selection

Tribute: *Francesca M. E., Daughter*

Musical Selection

Tribute: *Video from Thomas Eugene Hyden, Sr.*

Tribute & Thank You: *Erica Brickus, Daughter*

Musical Selection: *Abundant Life Apostolic Church Praise Team*

Wright Funeral Services in Charge

Recessional



CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Saturday, February 7, 2026
2 PM VIEWING | 4 PM SERVICE

SERVICE LOCATION
New Life in Christ Fellowship
1 South Fifth Avenue
Coatesville, Pennsylvania
Rev. Dr. Dan K. Williams, Senior Pastor

INTERMENT
Philadelphia Memorial Park
124 Phoenixville Pike
Frazer, Pennsylvania

PALLBEARERS
Amir Brake
Azuri Pugh
Kendall Wilson
Howard Spates
Lamar Wilson
Norman Gilliam

FLOWER BEARERS
Adrienne Shelton
Musheerah Brake
Tracina Shelton
Trente' Allen
Khaliyah Hampton
Shandell Spates

NOTE OF THANKS
*Thank you with sincere gratitude for your care and concern
shown during our time of bereavement.
Thank you all for your support and love.
May God bless you.
Sincerely, The Family*



725 MERCHANT STREET
COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
610-384-0341 | wrightfuneralsvs@aol.com
Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director, Supervisor