

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Pallbearers

*John Coffie, Casby Coffey, Calvin Eley, Ronald Lott, Ronald Watson,
and Kevin Williamson*

Acknowledgements

The family of Catherine Brooks wishes to thank the Amedisys Home Care Team, staff at Professional Healthcare Consultants Home Care, MedStar Washington Hospital Center ICU, and very special caregiver, Edie Coleman who became a close friend and confidante whom mom enjoyed and adored. Thank you to Bernadean Greene, Demetrius Jones with Caring Givers, the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center 3Center Cardiology Unit, Drs. Snyder and Colantino, Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Stacey Walsh, social worker Michelle Kirby, and the many dedicated staff of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for their care over the years.

We also want to send a huge thank you to Reverend Willette O. Wright as she made sure she stayed on top of her fellow "July Girl!" Without fail, she stayed in touch with both of our parents through their numerous health challenges, hospitalizations, and rehabilitations over the years. Despite your busy schedule, we always knew that we could count on you. Our parents were in awe when you called them, or suddenly walked into their hospital room unannounced. They were full of joy!

Additionally, we would like to thank our wonderful From the Heart Family for your continuous prayers and kindness. We have felt your prayers. Bishop Cherry and Reverend LaWanda Cherry, you have prepared us to go through; and you have encouraged us more than you will ever know. Thank you, Minister Briscoe for all of your hard work and dedication over these rough few months. Thank you to our wonderful family, co-workers, neighbors, and friends. We would also like to say thank you to Howell Funeral Home for your professional services.

Finally, thank you to everyone who prayed for us, sent monetary gifts, flowers, a meal, a kind word, or just a smile.

WE sincerely thank you ALL.

Love, the Family

**Services Entrusted To:
Howell Funeral Home
Jessup, Maryland**

Celebrating the Life of Catherine C. Brooks

July 28, 1930 – October 7, 2020



Friday, October 30, 2020

Viewing: 10:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m.

**From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, MD 20746
Bishop John A. Cherry, II – Pastor**

Obituary

Catherine Clara Brooks passed away peacefully on October 7, 2020, at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. She was one of several children born to the late Lazarus and Maria Loving Smith in Lovingston, Virginia.

Catherine began her early education in the Coolwell Public School System in Virginia. However, in the 1940s, she followed her cousin and her beloved Annie Pearl to Washington, D.C., where she continued her formal education.

While in D.C., Catherine met her future husband, Lorenzo Brooks, at Shiloh Baptist Church where she served on the Usher Board. The pair dated and subsequently married on August 12, 1956, in the District. The lovely couple was blessed with six wonderful children. Catherine was a doting mother, who not only cared for her own, but the whole village—she was truly a mother and counselor to many. She was always there for her children making sure they were clean, well-dressed or spotless, and had whatever they needed. Her children amusingly recall that she was extremely heavy-handed with the Vaseline she applied to their skin. After hearing this, her grandson thought it might have been some type of punishment.

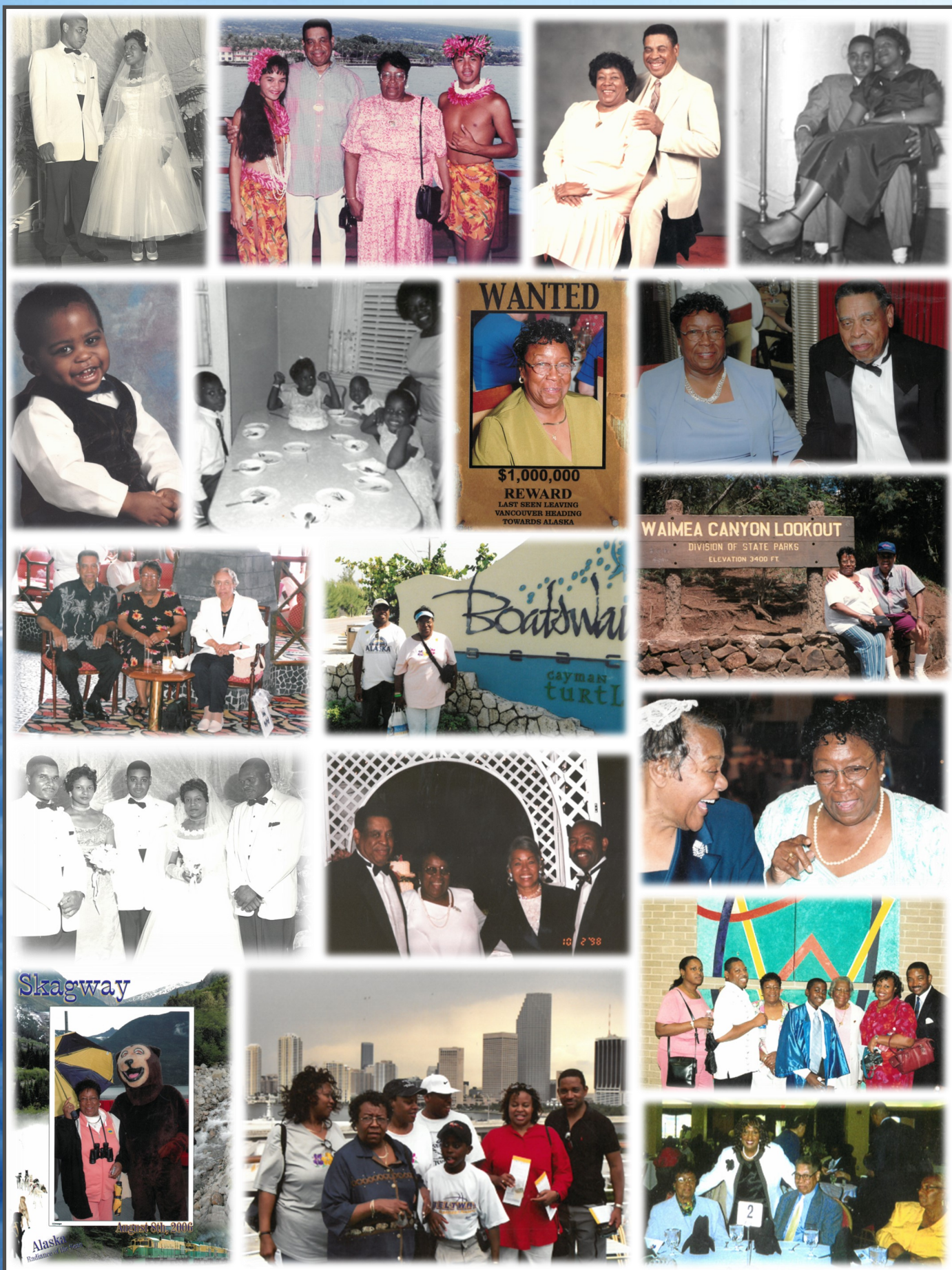
As an Army wife, Catherine was often left by herself to help the children with their homework, attend PTA meetings, and other school events. And, there was a point in time when her children were enrolled in four different schools; however, that didn't deter Catherine. She somehow managed to make it to every parent-teacher conference, track meet, drill team competition, flag twirler parade and competition, bowling competition, music and dance recital, and sports banquet—you name it—she was there.

Catherine was a teacher aide in her children's elementary school where she received the PTA Volunteer, Sports Mom, and Teacher Assistant awards for her diligent work. The strict disciplinarian was known for chauffeuring her children's classmates around town, and without question, the parents of those classmates knew their children were safe, and well-fed while in Mrs. Brooks' hands.

Catherine was a great cook—one had to taste her awesome pound cake. She and Lorenzo lived in the same neighborhood for almost sixty years and often brought food to a sick neighbor, relative, friend or church member. Catherine was well-known among many of the neighbors for her cooking abilities and good conversation. The couple was well-respected by those in the neighborhood, and their children were often looked after, especially by Doris Thorne and the Lewis Family. In fact, the Brooks home was known as the meeting place for all the neighbors' children, school friends, and whoever wanted to stop by. Additionally, family enjoyed gathering there for Thanksgiving and Christmas fellowships where the table was set with formal china, polished sterling silver cutlery, fresh table linens, and crystal glasses. And the food, well, it was so plentiful that they had to set up more tables to make room for everything.

Catherine, a family-oriented woman, lovingly cared for both of the couple's parents and grandparents in the latter years of their lives. She and Lorenzo's grandmother were very close, so much so that people mistook her for a blood relative. The two women absolutely adored one another. Similarly, Catherine maintained a very special relationship with her grandson, Ryan. Over the years, not only did she babysit him, but she also made a point of attending his sporting events, band and theatrical performances, graduations, and the like. "Nana," as she was affectionately called, was Ryan's heart—and the feeling was mutual. The bond between Catherine and her only grandchild was strong; the two often shed tears of joy after greeting each other—Ryan enjoyed spending time with his Nana.





Catherine's love of travel allowed her to experience many local and international venues. She especially enjoyed going to the theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, visiting the Hoover Dam, taking their grandchild to Disney World, cruising, visiting family in Virginia, and New York, visiting friends in Ohio, and traveling overseas to Thailand. Her many travels also took her to the beautiful Hawaiian Islands, Alaska, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands among other destinations.

As a woman of faith, Catherine always reminded those whom she loved that her first love was her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, followed by the love of her life, Lorenzo—then her children and grandchild. Her spiritual journey began at an early age when she was baptized in the creek behind the First Baptist Church of Coolwell. She attended Sunday School regularly and was an avid churchgoer.

While searching for a good church in the metropolitan area, Catherine and Lorenzo visited From the Heart Church Ministries, and on May 22, 1994, joined the church. The loyal members faithfully served in the Helps Ministry. "Mom and Dad Brooks," as they were affectionately known, proudly served God's people while dressed in their yellow and white ministry attire. They loved their church, and their church family. Practically speaking, they were the first people to arrive for Sunday Worship Service. And, after securing a premier space on the parking lot, would enter the church and hold court at their "designated seats" until time for service. In addition, they often attended fellowships at the homes of various members, such as Sister Collins, Sister Burton, and Sister Roddy. Furthermore, their senior connection within the Helps Ministry included Reverend Willette O. Wright, who had ministry oversight. The pleasant couple formed a true loving bond with Reverend Wright and many others that remained until their passing.

Staff in the hospital units where Catherine often stayed knew her as "Mom," and she always expressed her appreciation for how they cared for her. Many staff to include cafeteria workers, nurses, technicians, and chaplains lovingly adopted her. Recently, she was showered with beautiful flowers, cards, money, balloons, and more in celebration of her 90th birthday. Catherine loved flowers, and always said, "Let me see my flowers while I'm living." She imparted her wisdom to anyone who would listen, and was quick to compliment a person's outfit or in some cases critique it if she thought it wasn't quite right. However, you always felt better after being in her presence.

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, following a long hard-fought battle, Catherine received her heavenly wings. She leaves quite a legacy. And, her family has peace knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. This is not goodbye, but a celebration of a life well-lived, and a job well-done by a good and faithful servant!

Catherine leaves to mourn her loss and cherish her memory her six children: Arvell Brooks, Carletta Renee Brooks-Nelson (Darrell), Deborah Brooks, Alonzo Brooks, Stephanie Brooks, and Jason Brooks; a beloved grandchild, Ryan Nelson; sister, Mabel Smith of Brooklyn, New York; a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, neighbors and her From the Heart church family.

Catherine was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 63 years, Lorenzo Brooks; and her sisters, Margaret Osborne and Mary Edith Bennett.

Order of Service

Invocation

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 91:1-7
New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection FTH Psalmist

Acknowledgements

Doris Thorne, Neighbor
Ryan Nelson, Grandson
C. Renee Brooks-Nelson, Daughter

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation FTH Psalmist

Message of Hope Reverend Willette O. Wright

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA



LETTER TO MOM-IN-LOVE

Mom, as we gather here today to celebrate your wonderful life of 90 years, when I met you as a teenager, I knew that you were special. You were beautiful inside and out, gracious, classy, and I also knew that you loved the Lord. It's the same thing that I saw in your daughter, Renee.

Mom you were a perfect example of a mom, wife, mother-in-love, grandmother and friend and what a virtuous woman should be. I am truly blessed that my wife had such great parents! I know how Dad felt about the love of his life, because I feel the same way about the love of my life.

Thank you, Mom, for the talks we had, the laughter and the tears we shared. Thank you for the funny times such as watching you clean greens until they sparkled and tasted delicious. Thank you for coaching Dad on what he should say to me when he first allowed me to come over. I loved watching you love on your family, especially Ryan. I remember watching you when Ryan totally surprised you in Hawaii for your 82nd Birthday celebration (and Dad was in on it)! Your reaction reminded me of the lady who won the sweepstakes. You have truly left a deposit in the earth for generations to come. I'll always love you!

Your son-in-love, Darrell



MOMMA CATHERINE

*Mom to me means unconditional love, Love for the Lord, for Daddy,
your children, grandchild and son-in-love,
Reminding us daily that all of our help comes from our heavenly Father above,
Short in stature, but strong in determination and resilience,
Always walking in obedience.
I especially remember that you were always grateful for the small things,
Reminding us to make the best of all that life brings.
Let us not forget having that hair always done along with your
mani-pedi and dressing the best,
Always remembering to add plenty of that bling!
You taught me to be a virtuous woman and set the bar high to be
the best mom ever,
With a wit and sense of humor, oh so clever,
We know that this is not goodbye, but see you again our
beautiful, feisty, magnificent momma!*

LOVE, YOUR ADORING and PROUD DAUGHTER RENEE!

God gave me the best mom in the WORLD!!!

MA's POEM

Loving her family was her sole mission and purpose,
Cherishing her husband of 63 years; an eternal pact of love.
Dutifully, faithfully raising her children while providing for her family
emotionally, financially and spiritually.
She was our beacon of hope!

Mom's service, devotion, loyalty, courage to, first of all, her faith in her Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ, to her family and then to her community as a whole.

Catherine Clara Brooks' life exemplified wisdom, trust, dependability and
steadfastness. She was no one's push over either, but understood how to be a
tender, kind-hearted person, to fault at times.

Our mother never missed a PTA meeting, little league game, never failed to help
us with our schoolwork, made sure we were in school, fed all of the other kids in
the neighborhood and would always encourage you when needed and gave you
discipline if you needed it.

And there was "Always" food on the table.

This is not the end of her life but the beginning of her new eternal one with Jesus.
She would not want you to be sad, angry, or grieve for her over a prolonged
period of time,

But she would want you to celebrate the life she achieved!!!

LOVE, JASON

A Mother's Love!

Although I cannot hear your voice, in spirit I know you are with me. I remember your smile and laughter; stories you told at Sunday's dinner. She's been with me throughout my life. Each precious day God gives us, another page is turned. Mom I love you and I miss you. Until we meet again.

Love, Stephanie



DEAR MOM from Your Son, ALONZO

I was born healthy and was stricken with meningitis in the nursery at birth. The doctors said I wouldn't survive and become a vegetable. They thought it best for you to leave me, but I thrived. You and Dad absolutely refused to give up on me. You prayed and prayed and I was released with many health challenges including the ability to walk. But, you never gave up on me. I came home and you nursed me and stuck with me since then. You fought for me to get the best education, rallying the Board of Education and politicians to go to the best schools and see the best doctors. You never, ever stopped. I learned to walk and play, and talk trash, more than anyone else. We later traveled together to Hawaii, go on cruises and enjoy traveling everywhere. Even when you felt bad you made sure I had bus transportation to and from work, got the best jobs and benefits and was well taken care of. Well, in the end I saw you fight so hard. I remember how hard you fought for me. With a smile I would help turn you, move you up in the bed and take care of you. I saw you fight real hard. Now, momma, don't worry. I am fine because you loved and taught me so much. I love you so much and I will see you again later.

Dear Mom,

*When God made moms, He gave me the best one in the entire world
You are the strongest person that I know
You are my best friend in Life
I will never forget the love you gave to me throughout my life
You understood me, better than anyone else
I remember you worked so hard to make sure I had a wonderful childhood
You always had a huge heart to serve others
Even during your darkest hours, you never lost your faith
Mom, now that your journey is over
I hope wherever you are, that you are resting peacefully
I love you and miss you with all my heart, but we will meet again*

Your Loving Daughter, Deborah



Together Again at Last!

