



## Wilma Geneva Brown

June 22, 2006

In the quiet early morning hours of Thursday, June 22, 2006, Wilma Geneva Copeland Brown slipped the bonds of life here on earth and departed after 82 wonderful years to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She gave her life to Christ at a very early age and served as a lifetime member of Gilmerton Star African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Chesapeake, VA.

Born to the late James and Signer Copeland on May 9, 1924, she was raised in Chesapeake, educated in Norfolk County Public Schools, and received her diploma from Providence High School.

At the age of 21, she married a young Navy sailor named James Brown and started her family. A 60-year resident of Portsmouth, VA, she learned tailoring at an early age and worked nearly 30 years as a professional seamstress.

Much like her father, she thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her family. She also loved gardening and annually decorated the front of her home with a beautiful assortment of flowers. She was a fantastic cook who loved preparing tasty meals for her family and earned a sterling reputation in the community for her delicious home-made, oven-baked rolls. She always insisted her food was good only because she prepared it with love.

Known affectionately by close friends and family as "Geneva," she consistently set an example of how to lead a rich and committed Christian life.

A tireless worker, she and her husband worked hard to support their family and provide a loving home.

She also worked unselfishly in her church where she sang in the church choir, served as a deaconess, was church treasurer, and represented the church as a delegate to national church conventions. She was recognized by those close to her as a caring and thoughtful person, with strong faith in God, and an extremely kind and generous spirit. She never passed up a chance to help others in need.

Wilma Geneva Brown was married to her husband, James for more than 60 years. She instilled in her children the importance of education, hard work, as well as dedication to family, job and God. She taught them how to live as good, honest, loving, and caring people. And near the end of her time here, when faced with a fatal illness, she also taught them how to die with dignity, grace, and courage.

She leaves to cherish her memory her beloved husband, James Lee Brown; her devoted daughter, Ora Lynn Brown Tilghman of Clinton, MD; and her two loving sons, Terry Lee Brown Alfreda of Springfield, VA and Rodney Michael Brown of Clinton, MD. She also is survived by a dear sister, Ora Beamon of Norfolk, VA; a caring brother, David Copeland of Waterbury, CT; a brother-in-law and friend, Clyde Thrower, Sr. of Chesapeake, VA; a sister-in-law, Ollie White of Tyler, TX; three grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Wilma Geneva Brown has left us for now but her spirit and legacy will live in

our hearts forever.

To send a lasting tribute or condolences to the Brown family, please sign the Online Guestbook below. Click "Sign Guestbook".

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wilma Geneva Brown*

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October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Terry & Family,*

*We were saddened to hear of the loss of your mother. May God's love sustain you during this time. When times are difficult for you, read Revelations chapter 21 verses 3 and 4. May you find comfort in these words.##imported-begin##Rachel Mills##imported-end##*

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August 14, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *My condolences to the family for losing a wonderful woman.*

*Kafi##imported-begin##Kafi Washington Brown##imported-end##*

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August 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *Your Mother would be so proud of her Homegoing service.*

*She is in heaven smiling.*

*She was blessed to have you as her immediate family.##imported-begin##Janet Pines Robinson##imported-end##*

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July 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Rodney,  
I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. I pray that GOD will give you all the strength and the peace that passes all understanding in this time of need. Sincerely, Darlene Green###imported-begin###Darlene###imported-end##

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June 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Rodney,  
  
May the LORD keep you and your family strong and with him forever!!! SHE'S WITH HIM NOW!!!!  
  
Jamela###imported-begin###Jamela M. Simpson###imported-end##

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June 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Rodney,  
I pray the Lord will ease your sorrow. My mother passed away nearly 8 years ago and I still have moments when I want to visit with her. I cherish my memories of her.  
Peace be with you and your family,  
Diane M. Blair  
Safety Division  
Coal Mine Safety and Health###imported-begin###Diane M. Blair###imported-end##

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June 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ora and Family,

*I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved mother. Surely it was a gift to you both to be able to spend these last weeks together, and I hope that those thoughts help to sustain you. I pray that the days ahead will be filled with healing, warm memories and peace.*

*My deepest sympathies to the entire family,  
Marianne Julian###imported-begin##M Julian###imported-end##*

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June 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ To Rodney and Family,

*May God keep you in his perfect peace in your time of bereavement. My prayer for you and your family is that you find comfort in knowing that to be absent from the body means to be in the present of the Lord.###imported-begin##Robin Latimer###imported-end##*

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June 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Rodney and Family,  
I was deeply saddened to learn of your loss. I can only imagine the level of sorrow you must be feeling. Just know that earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal. I did not know Mrs. Brown, however, I am very familiar with the fruit of her labor and that is you Rodney. Your Mom obviously raised you to be a true man; one who is respectful, intelligent, gentle and kind. I encourage you to trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Christ and He will definitely direct your path. May God bless and keep you in His loving arms of love and protection.

Your Friend and Co-worker##imported-begin##Lynnette  
Haywood##imported-end##

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June 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Rodney & family - my deepest sympathy during this time of your loss. My prayers are with you are your family.##imported-begin##Patricia A. Smith##imported-end##

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June 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ MAY THE WARM MEMORIES  
OF YOUR DEAR ONE...  
SOOTHE YOU.  
IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME  
AND HELP YOU BE AT PEACE  
MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.##imported-begin##June  
Ingram##imported-end##

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June 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Jim, Lynn, Terry/Freda and Rodney:*

*You all have my "heart felt" sympathy in the loss of Ms. Genny. May loving memories of her and her kind spirit surround you and bring you peace.*

*I pray that God keeps his arms around all of you to comfort you.*

*With Care and Love,##imported-begin##Theresa  
Lindsey##imported-end##*

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Rodney and family.*

*I'm sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. My prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Kim Hawkins  
Ponder##imported-end##*

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rodney, my sincere condolences to you and your family, my prayers are with you and may God give you the strength in the days a head.##imported-begin##Yvonne Quinn##imported-end##*

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ora,  
Please know that you and your family are in my prayers.  
Years ago someone sent me the following verse, which I will now share with you.  
"This world is not a conclusion.  
A future lies beyond.  
Invisible as music;  
As positive as sound."

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Cecelia Dawe-Gillis##imported-begin##Cecelia Dawe-Gillis##imported-end##

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Ms. Tilghman,  
  
May the Lord be with you and your family at this time of loss. God Bless you.##imported-begin##Angela Nickelson##imported-end##

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ora and Terry,  
  
May the peace of Jesus comfort and keep you strong in your time of bereavement.  
  
Sincerely,  
Carolyn Rivers##imported-begin##Carolyn Rivers##imported-end##

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Rodney,

*You have my deepest condolences, and rest assured only Jesus Christ has the "true" LOVE to comfort you and your family at this time of need. I just lost my father April 05, 2006 and want you to know it is not easy, but the Lord will provide what you need, just look to him.*

*Your Friend,*

*Charlie Thomas##imported-begin##Charlie Thomas##imported-end##*

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Hi Rodney

*My sincere condolences to you and your family over the loss of your dear beloved Mother. There is nothing like a Mother's love and I know that you will cherish her memories for the rest of your life. I know that your Mother is an African Queen because it is evidenced in the Prince she raised up in you. I pray that God will bless and keep you strong throughout this period of bereavement knowing that your Mother is truly in a better place. Please know that our hearts and prayers are with you and you can always count on the ODEO staff's support at any time. God Bless You.##imported-begin##Darlene Warren##imported-end##*

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June 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Terry and Family - May the Lord be with you all at this very sad time. You will all be remembered in prayers from my family and I. Sincerely, Joan, Joseph and Melanie Fiander##imported-begin##Joan R. Fiander##imported-end##

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June 25, 2006 at 12:00 AM