



## Mrs. Leona M. Brown

January 5, 1922 - May 15, 2021

### Obituary

Leona Marie Smith Brown, the family Matriarch, went home to be with the Lord on May 15, 2021. She was born January 5, 1922, in Vian, Oklahoma to Ada Frazier Smith and George W. Smith. She was the second of four siblings. Her parents, Elizabeth Gordon and brother, George Smith preceded her in death. Another brother, Anderson J. Smith, who is 98 years old lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Her elementary and secondary education was in Vian. There she attended Douglas Elementary and Vian high school where she met the love of her life. Leona married Edward Richard Brown in 1940. From this union their first child, Luther Brown was born in 1941. Two years later, the small family moved to Kansas City, Kansas. The family grew when another son, George Edward Brown was born in 1943. During that time Leona stayed with her sister, Elizabeth, while Edward served in the United States Army. Leona and Edward remained married for 58 years until his death in 1990.

Mrs. Brown was the personification of unconditional love. She was a sterling example of how to live an honorable life. She was a virtuous God loving woman. She was patient, kind and totally unselfish. She never uttered a negative word nor exhibited an unpleasant attitude toward anyone. She spent a lifetime helping others. Every task she approached she gave 100%

of herself and she could be depended upon to complete it. She never sought the limelight for herself, yet she always took delight in the accomplishment of others. When confined to the house, because of illness, she found pleasure in watching game shows and news broadcasts on television.

Her walk with God and commitment to Christ began very early in her life. For over 75 years, since 1946, she was a dedicated member of Friendship Baptist Church in Kansas City where, she attended church regularly for it was the highlight of her week. She served on the Issachar Sheepfold ministry, was a member of the First Aiders and worked diligently in the Nurses Ministry. Favorite among her activities was attending church for all types of worship or celebration. Regardless of her personal circumstances she never failed to pay her tithes. She prayed for her brothers and sisters in Christ. To those seeking to know Him, she shared her personal knowledge of the goodness and grace of God. Weekly she sought out church attendees to inquire about their health and circumstances. She was forgiving of any slight. During the week she called the sick and shut in to determine if she could provide assistance in any way. Often, taking the bus to visit those confined to a hospital or nursing facility, she would spend entire days sitting and talking to lessen the loneliness felt by a church member. She would use her nursing skills to help members care for their families. She went to funerals and interacted with the grieving family to show support and caring.

Taking loving care of family, friends and others was her passion. She made her children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews the center of her life. Mrs. Brown welcomed and raised many of them under her roof for a significant number of years. Those same young people influenced by the care and guidance of Mrs. Brown, went on to complete advanced degrees. She raised her granddaughter from the time she was two months old until adolescence. To the amazement of family members, she telephoned her one sister and two brothers across the country every day, without fail, while God graced them to

be alive; often calling more than once a day. Her husband was hospitalized for more than a year until his death. Throughout his infirmity Mrs. Brown remained at his bedside. She made two or three trips a month to Oklahoma to take care of her severely incapacitated sister until her sister's death. She never let time or distance be a barrier preventing her from sharing love with grandchildren and great grandchildren who live in other states. She loved and treated her daughters-in-law like they were her own flesh and blood. Even in her advanced years she eagerly traveled to visit relatives and attend family reunions. She committed every detail about every known relative to memory, even at the age of 90.

Mrs. Brown served as Coordinator of her neighborhood association. She also held the position of recording secretary for the neighborhood organization. She played a key role when organizing neighbor cleanup events. Importantly, she encouraged members of the neighborhood to register and to vote. Both Queen of the World and St. Joseph Hospitals were fortunate that for a combined and uninterrupted thirty years Leona worked as a Nurse's aide to serve their ailing patients. At work she was eager to meet people, and many remained lifelong friends. She enjoyed spending time with neighbors and friends. She cared about her neighbors and the broader community. She would move heaven and earth to help a person in need. She recognized how important a friendly gesture can mean so much to someone who needs it. She always had time to help.

Maintaining a house alone in her advanced years was too much and she moved to live with her son, Luther, and his wife Sharon. She resided with them in their loving home until her declining health forced her to be in a skilled nursing environment. She remained a resident at Carondelet Nursing Facility for five years. Ultimately, she was in the care of St. Joseph Hospital for less than a week prior to her transition to Glory.

Leona will be an eternal angel, from heaven, yet always close, to watch over her sons: Luther Brown (Sharon), George E. Brown (Josephine) ; grandchildren - Dana Brown Pryor (Craig), Rudolph R. Benson (Keesha) DeSoto, TX, Angela Brown Keys (Darryll) St. Charles, MO, Billie Moliere (Rudy) Brooklyn, New York, Robin Stamenov of Manhattan, New York, Gayla Brown Curtis (Wilson), great grandchildren – Kayla Joy Keys, Angel Ann Marie Benson, Kristen Joann Keys, Christian Miles Benson, K'lyn Davis Hernandez Curtis, Elijah Santana Curtis, Layla Brielle Curtis, Bailee Laura Moliere; great-great grandchildren – Cayli Springer, Kaiser Springer; and many beloved nieces and nephews. The heart broken family and friends will honor and hold precious her memory.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 11:00am at Friendship Baptist Church. Interment Longview Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10am-11am at the church. Service conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website. Due to COVID-19, social distancing and face coverings are required indoors. Temperature check for all guest(s). Live streaming link [www.fbckcmo.org](http://www.fbckcmo.org)

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Mrs. Leona M. Brown, please visit our floral store.

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# Tribute Wall

KS

“ Garden path was purchased for the family of Mrs. Leona M. Brown by Kayla Keys, Michael, Cayli, and Kaiser Springer . Send FlowersOur hearts are filled with sadness and tears but our memories are filled with smiles and laughter of the good times we shared over the years. We love you so much.Kayla Keys, Michael, Cayli, and Kaiser Springer

Kayla Keys, Michael, Cayli, and Kaiser Springer - May 25, 2023 at 01:19 PM



“ Structured design in red and white was purchased for the family of Mrs. Leona M. Brown. Send FlowersTo the family of Mrs Leona Brown may God bless and keep you doing this difficult time. Bernard and Dorothy Williams

May 25, 2023 at 01:19 PM

DP

“ My mother and I lived across the street from Mrs Brown and as a little boy I would get so excited when I saw her and yell hi Mrs Brown. She would say hi little David. I always remember her laughter. She would come over to the house and have talks with my mom and before you know it I would hear her laugh. When I would come back to Kansas City and stop by the neighborhood I always hoped that I would be able to have a quick visit with Mrs Brown. If she wasn't home I would live a note and my number and she would call and we would talk and play catch up. What I remember the most is that every day at least one of her son's or brother's would come by the house and spend not just minutes but hours visiting Ms Brown. You knew she was loved.

David Payne - May 31, 2021 at 08:48 AM

“ To the Brown Family: We take this time to express our personal condolences to the family of Leona Brown. Our deepest thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this time. No there is never a welcomed time to hear about the passing of anyone in death. When death does arrive, we find ourselves going into the house of mourning thinking about our departed love ones, and our life in general. (Ecclesiastes 7:1-2) Many questions we will find ourselves pondering over. Yes why do other creative things like trees or turtles can outlive man himself. Some turtles can live to be over 200 years old, and tree can live to be over a 1000 years of age. Would you not agree that there is something wrong with this picture. Although we can not fix this problem, God can. He is well aware of what the human family is dealing with. He knows how the human family arrived in situation, and what it would take to reverse the problem. So what will God do about the dying situation. He will restore life back o those who have died, like Leona and a great host of others who have fallen asleep in death. In fact these are words of encouragement that God is sharing with the Brown family today. Notice this wonderful scriptures that God is sharing with those who have fallen asleep in death. He tells us that He would soon cause a calling to go forth to those in the grave. That our departed love ones would Hear that calling and stand up in life again. ( John 5:28-29) Can you you see God's great love being shown to all grieving family. HE is really giving us His personal guarantee that our love ones will stand up in life again. There is not another person that can fix this problem that we have been confronted with. Going back to the scriptures, the Bible tells us that God is the source of life for all creative things. ( Psalm 36:9) Yes even if a person dies God has the desire and the power to restore life back to those who have died. Really the human family have much to look forward to. No our love ones are not left in a helpless situation. Today we can build up our confidences in this promised arrangement by God. This can be done by reading all nine accounts in the Bible that speaks about the resurrection blessing soon to take place earth wide. Here is just one such example recorded at Acts 9:36-42. I hope that the family and friends will be able to see how these

*verses apply to Leona, and a great host of others who await their personal awakening from the deep sleep of death. In closing we say please keep this promise of God near your hearts at all times. Remember that when God makes a promise, it becomes reality. For it is impossible for God to lie. ( Titus 1:2)*

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**Albert Caldwell Jr** - May 20, 2021 at 09:56 AM

JR

“ *We recalled the many good times that our daughter and Leona's granddaughter shared with her. Luther would do anything to assure that the trio had fun. Those memories are precious.*

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**John Rice** - May 19, 2021 at 05:14 PM