Celebrating A Wonderful Life

Frances Lorraine Broadnax Brown
March 22, 1932 – March 7, 2008

Friday, March 14, 2008
12:00 Noon

Friendship Baptist Church
1109 32nd Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37209

The Reverend Victor M. Singletary
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church Capitol Hill
Officiating
In Loving Memory

Frances Lorraine Broadnax Brown departed this life and entered into the loving arms of Jesus on Friday March 7, 2008. The seventh of the eight children of Harvey and Maxie Broadnax, she was born in Chattanooga, TN on March 22, 1932. The death of her parents at an early age was followed by a loving “adoption” and rearing by “Aunt Pressie” & “Uncle Butler”. It was from Aunt Pressie that she gained her love of poetry, reading, and “drama” and learned to “hold her head high” despite any adversity. It was also from her aunt that she received her religious values; prompting her to join the church at an early age.

Always an excellent student, she received her high school diploma with Salutatorian, honors from Booker T. Washington High school. At that time, she not only found time to excel in academics but was also a force to be reckoned with on the basketball court.

Following in the footsteps of two of her older sisters, she received her RN degree at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, GA. Encouraged to go to Nashville, TN by friends from nursing school, she received her first job as an RN at (Meharry) Hubbard Hospital. The enthusiasm and excellence which she gave to her duties soon brought her to the attention of Dr. E. Perry Crump who encouraged her to further her education in nursing aiming toward specializing in Pediatrics. She chose instead to follow her heart and was joined in matrimony to Kermit R. Brown. Their union was blessed with one daughter, Patricia Renee.

Though she eventually lived in multiple cities as her husband pursued his medical training, she returned to Nashville, TN in 1970. It was at that time that she joined the First Baptist Church Capitol Hill Family and the Helen Kincaid Circle. Also during this period, she squeezed time from her busy jobs as nurse, wife, and mother, to become a Nurse Practitioner or, as her brother James called her, --- a “Super Nurse”.

As a nurse practitioner, she joined her husband and assisted him in running his medical practice. If those duties were not enough, she also bought and ran her own home health agency. With each new undertaking, her primary goal was not only to give her patients the best care possible, but also to educate them to enable them to enhance their own health care.

Preceded in death by her parents, Harvey and Maxie Broadnax, and four siblings, she leaves behind to cherish her memory her husband of 50 years, Kermit R. Brown, M.D., her daughter, P. Renee Obi, M.D., (Emmanuel Obi, M.D.) and granddaughter, Olise Obi, of Jackson, TN, brother, Harvey Broadnax, sisters, Maxie and Patricia Broadnax, very devoted cousins Sara Cotton, Rosetta Strickland (Harry), Charles Frazier (Mary), and Tillie Seay of Chattanooga, TN, Melvin Halliburton of Dayton, OH, Pressie Wasson (Luther) of Stockton, CA, Terrelee Frazier of Racine, WI, The Crawley Family of GA, Sister-in-Laws Emma Broadnax, and Modestine Grant, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.
TO MY MEMA

Who would try to give me all the world
As far as I could see?
Who always had two open arms
And smiles just for me?
Who always found some special time
That we two could share.
And never was too busy,
To show how much she cared.
She was the best, win, lose, or draw.
I'm so glad that God gave me you for a little while
But now he needs you more.

Love, Olise (Boo)

For My Sister, My Friend

What is it about having a sister?
You can spend so much of your childhood in little fights or competing for attention...
and then one day, you're all grown-up and you realize she's one of your best friends—
The kind of friend who makes you wish you had more time to spend with her.
I guess it's really true what they say about not being able to appreciate some of life's greatest
gifts until we get older. When I was younger, I thought of you as just my sister, but now I
realize that you were... Not just my sister but a very special friend.

Love, Tricia

For My Mentor and Friend

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star.
And one clear call for me
And may there be no moaning of the bar.
When I put out to sea.
But such a tide as moving seems asleep
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turn again home.

Twilight and evening bell.
And may there be no sadness of farewell!
When I embark;
For through from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar

Lovingly submitted,
Lavenia Crutcher

Loving Tributes

TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER, MENTOR, AND FRIEND

Adapted Excerpts from Go Down Death, By James Weldon Johnson
and When All is Done, By Paul Laurence Dunbar

Weep not, weep not,
She is not dead.
She's resting in the bosom of Jesus.
Heart-broken husband—weep no more;
Grieving daughter—weep no more;
Heart-sick brother, sister, and cousins—weep no more;
Left-lonesome grandchild, nieces, and nephews—weep no more;
She's only just gone home.
Weep not—weep not,
She is not dead;
She's resting in the bosom of Jesus.

We are all better and richer for having known Frances/Mom/
For she was part of all the best
That Nature loves and gives,
And tears of sorrow can but fall

But I think that if Mom were with us still, she would say:

When all is done, and my last word is said;
Let no one weep,
Pray not for me, for after long despair;
The quiet of the grave will be a prayer.

For I have suffered loss and grievous pain,
The hurts of the loss of parents, adoptive parents, and siblings
And wounds so deep that love,
Well-tried and pure,
Had not the pow'r to ease them or to cure.

When all is done, say not my day is o'er
Say rather that my mom has just begun—
I greet the dawn and not a setting sun,
When all is done.

Submitted respectfully and lovingly by your daughter, Renee
On behalf of Dr. Kermit Brown, and Drs Emmanuel and Renee Obi
Acknowledgements

The family of Mrs. Frances Broadnax Brown deeply appreciates your unending display of kindness. Your prayers, calls, cards, visits, and words of comfort helped to carry us through this time of bereavement.

Special thanks to...
Reverend Victor Singletary, Mrs. Loraine Todd, Mrs. Lavenia Crutcher, Ms. Erma Todd, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Curry, Mrs. Jennifer Turnage, Ms. Mary Bonds, Mrs. Teresa Freeman, The Hospice Alive nurses, Angela Jones, Angela Gunn, Angela Perry, Molly Konadu, Wole Ekuwsumi, and the Lewis and Wright Funeral directors.

AfterGlow
I’d like the memory of me to be a happy one. I’d like to leave an after glow of smiles when life is done. I’d like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days. I’d like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

Pallbearers
The American Baptist Men

Honorary Pallbearers
Mr. Alonzo J. Arnold
Mr. Doran Porter
Mr. Fred Harden
Mr. Mark Grant
Mr. W. Sparks Porter

Flower Attendants
Chi Eta Phi sorority
Mrs. Loraine Todd
Mrs. Lavenia Crutcher
Mrs. Bettye Trammell
Mrs. Pat Brown
Mrs. Jamie Shelton
Mrs. Yvette Hill
Mrs. Abigail Aduwumi

Interment
Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery
Pegram, Tennessee

The Final Tribute, A Service by:
Lewis & Wright Funeral Directors
2500 Clarksville Highway
Nashville, TN 37015
615-255-2371
Richard A. Lewis, Funeral Director
Ricky Lewis Michael Lewis

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