# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Maomi Elizabeth Pannell

NOVEMBER 1, 1934 - JANUARY 13, 2022







Your Life Was A Blessing; Your Wemory A Treasure YOU ARE LOVED BEYOND WORDS AND MISSED BEYOND MEASURE.











#### **THE OBITUARY**

### Mother Naomi Elizabeth Robinson Pannell

"This Is My Story, This Is My Song . . . "



#### THE EARLY DAYS

I was born of a kind heart, *Naomi Elizabeth Robinson*, on a lovely fall day, Thursday, November 1, 1934, in Norfolk, West Virginia, to my loving parents, Jesse King and Susie Ann Elizabeth Robinson. I am the third of thirteen children and was named by my grandfather, John Robinson. He pronounced, "We have a Paul. We have a Ruth. Now I name you Naomi." And so, my life commenced in the fear and



admonition of the Lord. My father affectionately referred to me as his "million-dollar baby in a five and ten cent store." My family was large and beautiful and meant the world to me.

My siblings and I learned great work ethics early on.

We lived on a farm in the mountains of West Virginia where we raised chickens and pigs. We grew our food and made our own butter. As far as studies are concerned, I was an excellent student who had an ardent appreciation for learning. My scholastic achievements were guided by Elkridge Elementary, Norfolk Jr. High, and Elkhorn Senior High School. I graduated in 1952.

As a child, I was sensitive to the Holy Spirit and at the age of 12, on July 14, 1946, I was baptized in the name of Jesus and received the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. This was the best thing that would ever happen to me. While a child, I

attended the Little Rock Church of Christ where Bishop Posey Diamond Smith was my pastor. We didn't have to travel far to go to service. You see, the church was attached to our house on the mountain. Seeing that God had a plan for my life, He blessed me to be appointed secretary of the Sunday School at the young age of 13, appointed secretary of the Pastor's Aide, member of the Busy Bee Club, Young People's Prayer Band, and the Gospel Choir. I loved church!

#### MY FAMILY LIFE

At the age of 17, upon graduation from high school in 1952, I married the love of my life, the kind-hearted, Joseph Pannell, who had relocated to Columbus, Ohio. We made our heart commitment during his two-week army leave before he was deployed to fight in the Korean War. During my husband's war timetable, I was employed at a gas station/confectionary shop. Subsequently, I relocated to Columbus, Ohio in May, 1954. My love for learning never ceased





and upon relocation, I enrolled in the Central Night School Program, where I studied refresher courses in business, typing, and shorthand. This training enabled me to later become gainfully employed as a recording stenographer. I had the blessed privilege of giving birth to my heartbeats. Our beautiful seven daughters were the love of our lives. Further, in 1975, my husband and I were blessed to add our four-year-old nephew to the family as our son. Who would have thought? From the two of us, to date, the Pannell Tribe numbers 92.

#### **MY CHURCH SERVITUDE**



Faithfully, in 1954, I began to serve at Rehoboth Temple Church of Christ, 1120 East Long Street, under the pastorship of Bishop H.J. Spencer. Under assignment, I had the auspicious pleasure of serving as secretary of the Sunday School, served in the Go-Forth Club, Gospel Choir, A.B.Y.P.U., Baptismal Committee, Drama Department, and the Kitchen Committee where I was known for my delectable cakes and pies. I was honored to assist with the COOLJC National and State Registration Committees, additionally, State Program Committees. In 2018, I was inducted into the National COOLJC Sunday School Hall of Fame.

God gifted me with a love and dexterity for fine arts early in my life. This passion as an artisan carried over into my adult and church life. I performed in many productions including the well-known "Unwashed Hands" and "Mary of

Bethany." Consequently, God blessed me to become a well sought- after coordinator and play director throughout the city. I was instrumental in the production and initiation of pantomimes and plays in the church arena. Later, with grace and guidance, my heavenly Father helped me pave the uncharted path for art and drama to be utilized and commenced within the scope of His reverence. God blessed it to be an additional utility toward expressive and Christ-centered worship.

In 1958, with the permission of Bishop Spencer, I began the infamous Templeaire Choir to help introduce a more contemporary sound of worship in service. The choir developed a remarkable sound as we studied and were directed under the works of the great Maestro, Clinton Utterbach.

After 24 years of servant assignment at Rehoboth Temple Church, I joined my husband as co-founder to birth a ministry on Columbus' south side, Little Rock Church of Christ. The task loomed large, but I enjoyed every minute of every challenge. I loved the ministry with all my heart. God remained faithful and as First Lady, trusted me with the position of church administrator (over 20 years), Missionary President, Vacation Bible School Director, Christmas Committee and head of Christmas productions, Kitchen Committee, M.D.W.G. Sunday School Teacher (Jr./Int. classes), started and developed the Gospel Choir, introduced an even higher level of fine arts into worship. My husband and I also pastored New Bethel in Gary, West Virginia, for over 17 years. Anything that I have procured in this lifetime, is but a consequence to God's glory.

#### **COMMUNITY**

Throughout the years, it was a pleasure to serve in community outreach programs by providing food, clothing, and the like, to the disadvantaged. Moreover, I had the honor of teaching, helping, and impacting the lives of children at the Sonshine Christian Academy as a para-educator. They affectionately called me 'Mom' . . .



#### **MY DEPARTURE**

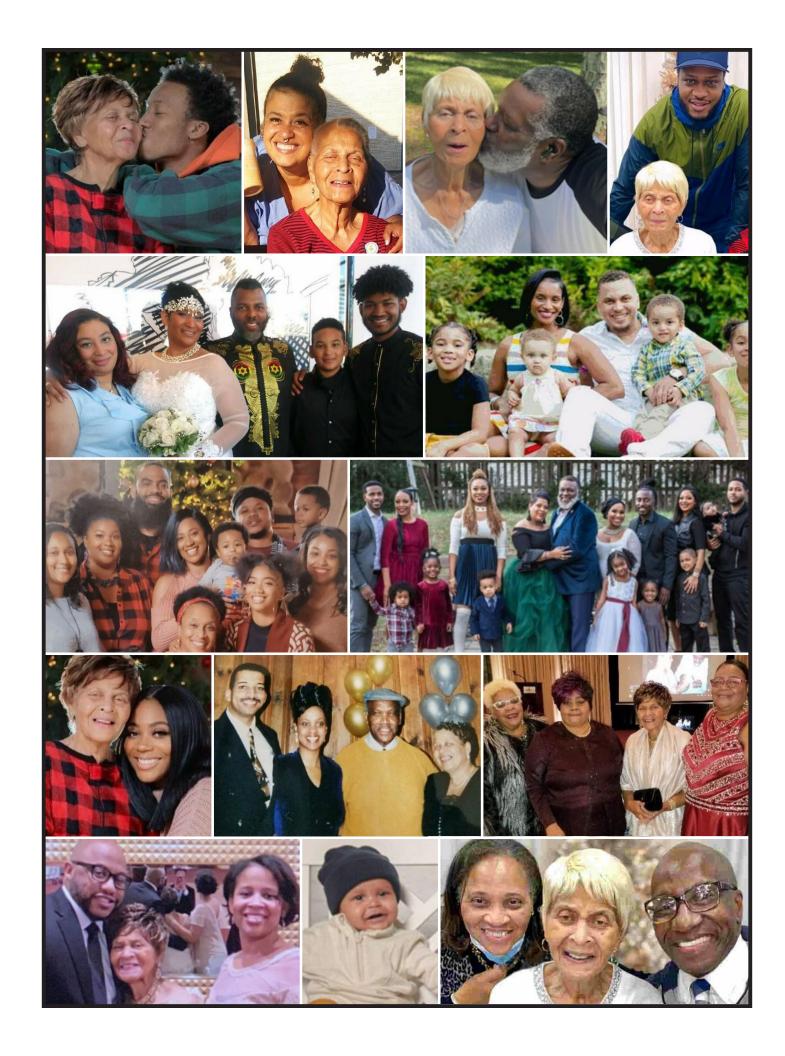
I took flight and joined family members on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 1:17 p.m. and now celebrate with them in glory. I am rejoicing with my beloved husband and best friend, Bishop Joseph Pannell and our "Beautiful Savior." I am enjoying my rest with parents, Deacon Jesse and Mother Susie Robinson; brothers, Paul, Nathaniel, Jesse Jr., James, Russell, and John David; sisters, Rose, Ruth, and Synetha (William).

And to those I leave behind to rejoice my victory

along with me, my most treasured possessions, my heartbeats, Deborah, Linda, Constance (Blair), Andrea (Ernest), Jodi, Tanez (Christopher), Nichole and my son/nephew, Curtis (Precious); additionally, 27+ (13) grandchildren; 40 great grandchildren; sisters, Rachel Bozeman, Laura Rachel Bozeman, Laura Gay, and Brenda Smith; sisters-in-love, Lilly Robinson and Helen Robinson; godchildren, Monique McFarland and Synedra Pass; special friend, Virginia Brown; special mentee, Tina Lee; and a huge host of loving nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends . . .







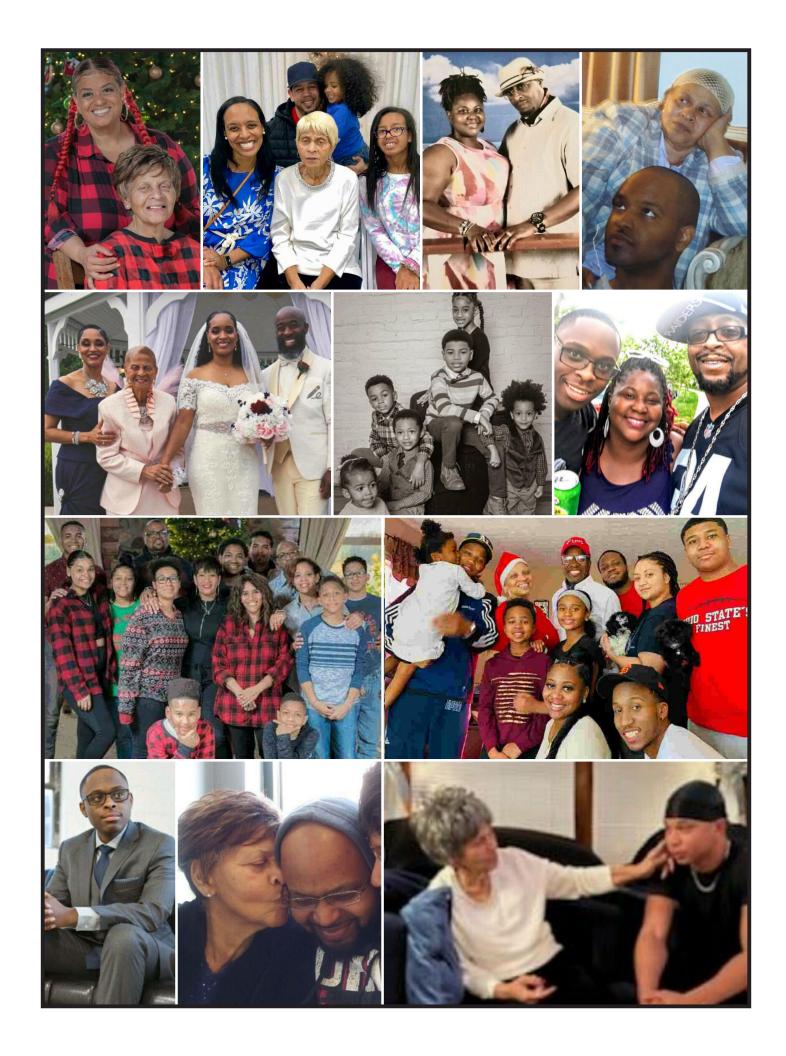


# The Worship Celebration

### **REHOBOTH TEMPLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Apostle Bradford Berry, Sr • Host Pastor Saturday, January 29, 2022 • 10:00 A.M. 1111 East Long Street • Columbus, Ohio 43205

PRELUDE
Tumity ristitution & riening 7.00 Him.
CEREMONIAL PROCESSIONAL
PRAYER OF COMFORT
THE OLD TESTAMENT - Psalm 27
THE NEW TESTAMENT - I Corinthians 15:51-55, 57
DANCE OFFERING Helen Naomi Turnbo • Granddaughter
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SELECTED REMARKS
SPECIAL CONDOLENCE
MUSIC OFFERING Grandchildren's Choir EXPRESSIONS The Pannell Villages
PASTORAL SENTIMENTS
MUSIC OFFERING Grandchildren's Choir PRESENTATION OF THE OBITUARY Patrice Mueller LADIES' SALUTE TO A QUEEN Lady Norma Berry
MUSIC OFFERING - "Hallelujah Chorus"
The Eulogistic Message - BISHOP DAVID MAXWELL Chairman, Board of Bishops • C.O.O.L.J.C.
PRESENTATION OF TALLIT







# Notable Naomi Nuggets . . . DID YOU KNOW THAT SHE . . .

Loved the snow Played the piano **Loved Gardening** Was a seamstress Knew how to drive Had a goat for a pet Loved Christmas time Started two businesses Was a master fund raiser Was a giver, loaned money Was a school "room mother" Allowed no slumped shoulders Was a wedding and event planner Loved shopping . Enjoyed reading Remodeled her own house (many times!) Would not let her family eat off paperware Loved beautiful jewelry • Was fashionable Loved Resee Cups . Loved Doublemint Gum Prepared three hot meals for her family daily Loved to wear white and pink frost nail polish Never missed her children's school programs Loved Noxzema Skin Cream and Jergens Lotion Was creative in culinary arts • Loved hot coffee Was Super-Duper strong until the very end (LOL) Loved T-bone steak • Loved Apple pie with cheese Cared greatly about others • Gave second chances Never missed any of her children's school programs Would threaten to "punch" you if she really liked you!!! Recited entire Psalm 27 up until the end of her journey Tucked her children in bed every night and said prayers Always smelled good • Loved White Diamonds Perfume Loved to wash and fold laundry . Loved washing dishes Had an open-door policy at Hague Avenue for young girls Set a beautiful dinner table • Hosted lovely dinner parties Loved to model for Daddy • Never let Dad fix his own plate Loved wrestling with grandsons and putting them in headlocks Decorated beautifully for Bishop and Mother Spencer's anniversaries

Was present for each grandchild's birth, cared for all her daughters upon discharge, and gave all her grands their first bath

She is "PRICELESS"





## Acknowledgements

**THE PANNELL FAMILY** wishes to express sincere gratitude to everyone for your love and kindness during this challenging time. Special thanks to Pastor and Lady Blair Burke (son-in-love) and the Little Rock Church of Christ for your prayers, concern, and consistent support. Thank you to Pastor Ray Robinson (grandson) for family support and for taking care of Mom's post-mortem care. Special thank you to Dr. Sophia Toliver for your encouragement and the special attention and care given to Mom. Thank you to Mom's care nurses, Jamie, Florence, and Danielle, Pastor Eugene Lindsey (grandson) and the Home Church for your support, Living Word Church in Lorain, Ohio, Doreen Gentry, Bishop David Maxwell, Pastor and Lady Berry and the Rehoboth Temple Church,

Dr. Rose Handon and the Honor Guard, Mr. Marlan Gary (The Chapel of Peace) for your ongoing support to our family through the years. We appreciate every call, every card, every prayer, every tear shed with and for us, every contribution, every gesture of kindness and every act of love.

*Our Beloved Naomi* . . . We can no longer see you with our eyes, touch you with our hands, but we will feel you in our hearts forever.











## Interment

### FRANKLIN HILLS MEMORIAL GARDENS

5802 Elder Road • Canal Winchester 43110

Rallbeavers - Grandsons

JOHN FLOWERS IV • GARY HOLLOWAY JR. • BLAIR LOUIS BURKE JR. TAMIR "TEX" ROCK • KEVIN-JOSEPH FLUELLEN • TREY BANKS

Honorary Pallbearers - Grandsons

BRANDON BURKE • BRYCE BURKE
CEDRIC FRANCIS • ZION-CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

A Repast

**"UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS,** the family deeply regrets that we cannot provide a public repast as we are accustomed. Please continue to lift us in prayer." With our sincere apologies . . . **THE PANNELL FAMILY** 

Memorial Contributions

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION in loving memory of Naomi Pannell by visiting alz.org

Arrangements Entrusted To

MARLAN J. GARY FUNERAL HOME • THE CHAPEL OF PEACE

2500 Cleveland Avenue • Columbus, Ohio 43211 • (614) 267-8310 5456 Livingston Avenue • Columbus, Ohio 43232 • (614) 604-8774

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