



Celebrating the Life of

Rhonda "Twin" Diane Brown

Sunrise

April 13, 1964

Sunset

December 3, 2024



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

10:00 A.M. VIEWING | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®
5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

Obituary

Rhonda Diane Brown was called home to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on December 3, 2024, while surrounded by a host of family.

Rhonda, an identical twin and the fifth of eight children, was born on April 13, 1964, to the late Mary “Betty” E. Hanna and the late John Mixon. She attended the District of Columbia Public Schools and furthered her education at the University of the District of Columbia, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in social work. She demonstrated her unwavering dedication to education and personal growth when returning to school to pursue her Master of Social Work at Howard University.

Rhonda was a pillar of her community, committing her life to serving others. Over the years, she worked with various non-profit organizations throughout the Washington metropolitan area, helping countless families find housing and access community-based services. Most recently, she served as a senior case manager at New Hope Housing in Alexandria, Virginia.

Rhonda had a deep love for her family and friends, especially her children: Shonda, Dominique, and Tevin, as well as her grandchildren, Jacob and Amari. She cherished these relationships and often found joy in their company. Rhonda had a radiant sense of humor that could light up any room. She would often call loved ones just to brighten their day with a corny joke or a cheerful word. Moreover, she shared a remarkable bond with her twin sister, Wanda. Their connection was so strong that they would sometimes dress alike without even realizing it, a testament to the unique and loving relationship they shared.

In her free time, Rhonda enjoyed reading novels, listening to music, trying new restaurants, and going to the movies with her nephew, Anthony. She also loved peaceful moments at the beach, where she could relax and reflect. Rhonda’s love for life and laughter was matched only by her deep faith. She accepted Jesus Christ into her life in the late 90s and became a devoted member of the Temple of Praise, where she actively praised and worshipped God.

Rhonda’s smile was infectious, lighting up every room she entered. Her giving spirit and caring heart left an impression on everyone she met, and those who knew her will always remember the beauty of that smile and the kindness she shared with the world.

Rhonda’s legacy of love, service, and joy will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be dearly missed, but her spirit will remain with us forever.

Rhonda leaves behind to cherish her memory her children: Shonda Cromartie, Dominique Gaiter, and Tevin Gaiter; daughter-in-law, Brianna Gaiter; grandchildren, Jacob Wright and Amari Gaiter; siblings: James Mathews, Constance Douglas, Kenneth Hodge, Samuel Hodge, Wanda Hanna (twin sister), John Hanna, and Tonja Hanna. She is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, cousins, and close friends.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn "Blessed Assurance"

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: II Corinthians 5:1-8

Prayer of Comfort

Selection.....Ms. Samantha Ward

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Mr. Anthony Spillman, Nephew
Mr. Roger Bowman, New Hope Housing
Ms. Gloria DeTosta, Cousin
Mr. Tevin Gaiter & Ms. Shonda Cromartie, Children

PoemMs. Brianna Gaiter

Obituary (Read Aloud)Ms. Michelle Reid

Song of Preparation.....Ms. Rachelle Douglas

Message of HopeReverend Justin K. Young

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

Family Sentiments

When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder, lions hunker down in tall grasses, and even elephants lumber after safety. When great trees fall in forests, small things recoil into silence, their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die, the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile. We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity. Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid, promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them, takes leave of us. Our souls, dependent upon their nurture, now shrink, wizened. Our minds, formed and informed by their radiance, fall away. We are not so much maddened as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed.

Our Twinship Bond

(Identical twins)

The hardest part of losing you (Rhonda) is relearning who I am in this world without your existence. The depth and power of our bond that has grown over a lifetime cannot be duplicated by any other intimate or close connection. Our lives of shared experiences—both positive and negative—are embedded in our collective DNA. All our life we looked the same, we sounded the same, we shared the same birthday, we were the same sex, and we had a way of communicating with each other that no one else could understand. I will always be reminded of you every time I look in the mirror and see a reflection of you, this is comforting for me knowing you will always be with me. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. This is not goodbye, big sister, I will see you again and I will always love you with my whole heart and cherish every memory we shared.

~ Love You, Twin #2 Wanda

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Family Sentiments

Dear Mama,

This is not a farewell, but rather a promise to see you again soon. I will forever treasure the memories we have shared, from the joyous laughter to the tears we have shed. Your unwavering resilience has been the driving force behind my journey, shaping me into the man I am today. I am an honorable and integrity-driven individual, and I will never let you down. Until we reunite, I will continue to strive for excellence and make you proud.

~ With love, Your only son

Hey Mama Rhonda,

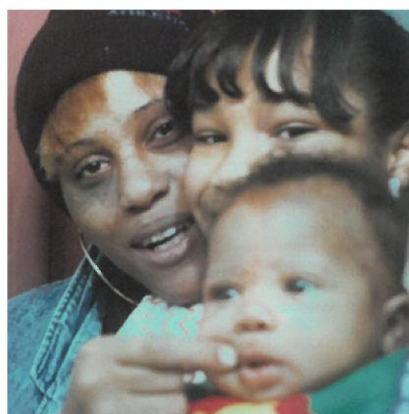
Thank you for giving life to three amazing children. Did I ever tell you I had a favorite? Thank you for the hours of labor, double shifts, school meetings, doctor's visits, lectures, and ultimately the sacrifices you made to raise your one and only son. While I know you may not have been able to give him the picture-perfect life, it was all enough. Your Dennis the Menace has grown into such a fine young man. Every life experience molded him into the wonderful man he is today. He is a leader in his career, an amazing father, and a loving husband. Thank you for shaping him into my best friend and life partner. Your love, strength, and guidance live on in him, and for that, I am forever grateful. Your legacy will continue to inspire us all. Rest in peace, Mama Rhonda, and know that I'll take excellent care of your baby boy.

~ Love, Bree

Mommy,

You were a fearless leader, and you were always ready to stand in the gap for the ones that you loved without any hesitation. Thank you for loving me in only the way that you knew how. Thank you for reminding me how beautiful I was inside and out. Thank you for giving me so many qualities of yours such as resilience, ambition, fortitude and gratitude. You always told me that I couldn't change the heart that God gave me, but that I had to learn to protect it. Thank you for giving me such a kind heart that forgives and nurtures whomever I encounter but allowing me the wisdom to have discernment. This isn't goodbye, but see you when I get there. I love you to the moon and back.

~ Your Firstborn, Shonda







CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Blessed Assurance

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

CHORUS

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long,
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

CHORUS

*Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love*

CHORUS

PALLBEARERS

*Tevin Gaiter, John Hanna, Nicholas King, James Mathews (Brother)
James Mathews (Nephew) and Anthony Spillman*

FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Darryl Besley and Micheal Besley

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We thank you so much for all the kindness you have shown. For friendship's healing touch,
with gratitude our hearts are full, though words cannot convey the tender thoughts and
thankfulness we hold for you today.
Love, the family.*

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