



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Dorothy Mae Nanton

MAY 2, 1933 - APRIL 6, 2023



Celebration of Life
Thursday, April 13, 2023 - 9:00 am

**Progressive Baptist
Church Rahway**
Rahway, New Jersey

Obituary

Dorothy Nanton, affectionately known as “Dot” or “Toot” to family and close friends, made her transition on Thursday, April 6, 2023 after a well hard fight against congestive heart failure and the ills that came with it. Her strong will to live, unwavering faith, and the love, prayers, and care from family, friends, and supporters gave her the strength to hold on until April, 6. It is so meaningful, fitting, and symbolic that she held on until the same date that her first Grandson, Dominique Elijah Nanton transitioned on April 6, 2021 to join him in that “house not made with hands; eternal in the heavens”. It seems that she wanted us all to have a lifelong “one day of mourning, celebration of life, and memory”; sparing us the pain of having to do that more than once every year. Forever compassionate, to the very end. Always thinking about the feelings of others.

“Dot” was born May 2, 1933 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She was the oldest of four siblings born to (the late) Odon Brewton and (the late) Florea Tecora Tucker Brewton. She attended and graduated from George Washington Carver High School in Spartanburg, South Carolina, which was the city’s only Black high school; a school that its alumni boasts as the “first generational Black students to graduate, go to college, and aspire to excellence”. As a result, “Dot” attended Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina before moving to New York City. “Dot” met Ezra Alphonso Nanton Sr. when she arrived and settled in The Bronx, NY in 1958. Ezra’s cousin, Sam “Chico” Wilson, introduced them to each other and the courting began. They spent time going to movies with Ezra Sr. also playing music to “Dot” over the phone in a successful attempt to “woo her” over time. They married on January 11, 1960. With Ezra Sr. working as a Surgical Technician at St. Vincent’s Hospital and “Dot” working as a Paraprofessional within the NYC Department of Education, they raised three children with all the love they shared. The hard-work ethic of both of them allowed them to travel often and regularly to visit family to maintain the strong family ties that were important to her. This included regular trips to the U.S. Virgin Islands and back to the South where she came from.

“Dot” loved to spend times with friends and family. Whether on Boston Road in The Bronx with her youngest brother Bill and his family, in Lawrenceville, New Jersey with her oldest brother Jimmy and his family, or back down the road to Spartanburg, South Carolina with her sister Barbara (Barb) and her family, her mother Florea, and her cousin Dorothy Ann Lyles (another Dot ... lol) and her family, “Toot” made sure that all the kids in the family got a chance to meet and spend time with each other and grow up as a unit; a tradition that we continue to try to promote and hold on to as a family. A trip to Baltimore, MD every now and then was another destination for “Aunt Dot”. In addition, her best friend while in New York was a “geechie” (no disrespect) from Edisto Island, SC (Ms. Lorraine Whaley) who was “another mother” to all of her children. This relationship solidified the family and extended the family that meant so important to her. So, traveling the Eastern Seaboard via car or Amtrak was a regular occurrence.

“Dot” was a mother figure to so many people and an “Auntie” before that term became popularized. Her warm heart and kind soul made you feel loved. Her soft voice made you feel comforted, like a big hug. She will be forever remembered and missed but will continue to remain in our hearts and everyday memories.

As the oldest child, “Toot” was strong and survived many who predeceased her; including her father: Odon Brewton, her mother: Florea Tecora Tucker Brewton, her siblings: William (Bill) Brewton, James (Jimmy) Brewton, and Barbara (Barb) Williams-Nesbitt and again, her 1st-born Grandson, Dominique Elijah Nanton. Dorothy leaves to cherish her precious memories, her three children: Maurice Nanton, Nadine Nanton, and Ezra Nanton Jr; Stepdaughter, Alicia Nanton Quetel; Daughters-in-Law: Marie Nanton and Joyce Dembry-Nanton; her grandchildren: Nia Nanton, Dylan Nanton, Kionna (Chris) Gilchrist, Travis Gallishaw, and her 1st great-granddaughter Jream Dominique Moore; one of her favorite cousins/ “sister”: Dorothy Ann Lyles, and numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, other family members and countless friends.



Order of Service

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading:
Old Testament
New Testament

Selection

Obituary

Reflections

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Benediction

Final Viewing
As Directed By T. Carrillo Funeral Service

Recessional

Interment
Rosehill Cemetery, Linden, NJ

In Grateful Appreciation

The family of the late Dorothy Nanton wishes to thank you all for your comforting prayers and thoughts throughout this time. We appreciate every act of kindness and all the love shown for our mother. May God bless each of you. We have lost the greatest woman in the world, but we've gained a precious angel and ancestor to watch over us. She would not want us to be sad because God doesn't make mistakes. She would want us to rejoice in her memory, remembering the things that she taught. She would want us to practice those values and remember that if we stick together, we can get through anything.



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