In Loving Memory
of

Nena McDowell

July 16, 1932 - October 30, 2026



"Your dead will live. My corpses will rise up. Awake and shout joyfully, You residents in the dust!" - Isaiah 26:19

Saturday, November 14, 2026 - 3:00pm

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
2135 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10460

Memorial Program

Video Montage

Chairman..... Kyle John

Opening Song ..... #158, "It Will Not Be Late!"

Reading of Obituary..... Irvin Emanuel

Discourse & Interview .....Maxwell Assan

Closing Song..... #139, "See Yourself When All Is New"

Closing Prayer..... Kyle John

Obituary

Nena McDowell was born on July 16, 1932, in Florence, South Carolina, to John and Isabella Sanders. She grew up there and graduated from Wilson High School. Shortly after graduation, she met the love of her life, Leroy McDowell, who preceded her in death. Together, they began building a family. Their first daughter, Margaret, was born, and later in 1955, Nena and Leroy moved to New York City in search of new opportunities. Their family later grew with the arrival of three more children, Cheryl, Levern, and Timothy (Timothy preceded her in death).

But one of the most important chapters of Nena's life was yet to come. Through the loving efforts of her dear sister, Martha Chandler, Nena was introduced to Bible truth, opening the door to a new and meaningful chapter in her life. She developed a sincere desire to learn what the Bible truly teaches about God. As she continued studying, her appreciation grew, and she came to recognize the beauty and ring of truth in what she was learning. In 1962, Nena dedicated her life to Jehovah and symbolized that dedication through water baptism. What followed was an extraordinary 64 years of faithful service to her God, Jehovah.

A Woman With a Giving Heart

One quality that beautifully described Nena was her hospitality. She genuinely enjoyed opening her home and sharing what she had with others. And if you knew Nena, you also knew she was an excellent cook! She had a special way of bringing people together around her table, preparing delicious meals that made everyone feel at home. Her example reminds us of Lydia, whose hospitality is warmly remembered in the Scriptures. Nena's home was more than just a place to gather. It became a place of friendship, encouragement, laughter, wonderful food, and spiritual fellowship. Friends, Bethelites, traveling overseers and their wives, and many others were welcomed with open arms. And those who visited would often say, "Nena just made us come!"

A Heart That Loved Jehovah's House
Nena's love for Jehovah was evident in the way she lived. She loved attending meetings, assemblies, and conventions, and especially enjoyed sharing in the ministry. In many ways, she reminded us of Anna, the prophetess, who regularly worshipped at the temple. Nena loved being among Jehovah's people. She also wanted her family and others to learn about Jehovah and experience the joy that Bible truth had brought into her own life. For many years, she even had the privilege of hosting the Congregation Book Study in her home. She considered that a true blessing!

Surrounded by Love
In her later years, Nena experienced health challenges. During this time, she was surrounded by family and dear friends who lovingly and tirelessly cared for her, showing her patience, compassion, and affection she so deserved. Their unwavering devotion was a beautiful expression of their love for Nena. Just as Nena had spent so many years opening her heart and home to others, now in her time of need, she was blessed to have family and friends who lovingly stood by her side and made sure she was never without care and support.

On October 30, 2026, at the age of 94, Nena fell asleep in death. There is so much more that could be said about Nena. A few paragraphs can never fully capture 94 years of life, the people she loved, the challenges she overcame, or the many beautiful memories she leaves behind. Nena leaves us a legacy of love, generosity, hospitality, and, above all, devotion to Jehovah. Her 64 years of faithful service were not simply years on a calendar; they represented a lifetime of choices, sacrifices, friendships and acts of love. That was four score and fourteen years. It may seem like a long life, but for those who loved her, it simply wasn't long enough.

Yet, we do not grieve without hope. We find comfort in Jehovah's precious promise of the resurrection. Nena sleeps safely in Jehovah's perfect memory. She is no longer suffering, but resting, awaiting the time when she will hear Christ's voice and awaken from the sleep of death. And what a beautiful day that will be! We look forward to doing all we can to be there to welcome her back.

Those She Leaves to Cherish Her Memory
Nena is survived by her beloved sister, Martha Chandler; her children, Margaret Bennett, Cheryl Copeland (Edward), and Levern McDowell; her grandchildren, Cherron Redding (Angelo), Randall Bennett, and Jason Bennett (Gail); and a host of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind her dear nieces, Marilyn Bradley, Audrey Chandler, and Vanessa Verrett (Leon); her nephews, Irvin Emanuel (Anais) and Timothy Emanuel; along with many other cherished family members and loved ones.

Sweet Memories









THANK YOU

The family of Nena McDowell would like to extend their deepest expression of appreciation for all who have supported them through this period of grief. Thank you very much for the unfailing love shown to us through your kind words, prayers and encouragement.