



Eldress Annie Ruth Greene-Burgess

August 28, 1930 - December 5, 2025

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."
— 2 Timothy 4:7

With deep love and gratitude, we celebrate the remarkable life and legacy of Eldress Annie Ruth Burgess, who entered eternal rest on Friday, December 5, 2025, at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, Virginia. At 95 years old, she graced this world as our Queen, our matriarch, and the glue that held our family together for generations.

Born on August 28, 1930, in Darlington, South Carolina, she was the second child of the late James Greene Sr. and Ruth Yarborough Greene. Annie Ruth carried herself with grace, wisdom, dignity, and an unshakable faith that guided her throughout her life.

Her Life & Education

A dedicated scholar, she graduated from Mayo High School in Darlington, South Carolina, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. She later moved to New Haven, Connecticut, where she laid the foundation for a strong family legacy as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother.

Ministry & Service

Called to ministry in July 1974, Eldress Burgess spent more than five decades serving the Lord with passion and excellence. Her theological studies included:

Cobi Bible Institute

Word of Faith Bible Institute

Yale Divinity School (through Union Temple Unison Free Will Baptist)

Hartford Seminary B.M.P. Program

She faithfully served at Union Temple Free Will Baptist Church, where she was musician for the Gospel Chorus, President of the Epps Chorus, and President of the Junior Choir. In 2004, she became the Overseer of Kingdom Empowerment Ministries and Mount Moriah Tabernacle of Praise, leading with devotion, compassion, and unwavering strength.

A gifted educator and exceptional seamstress, she poured her creativity and excellence into everything she touched. Even through health challenges, she remained a living testimony of courage, endurance, and trust in God.

Cherished Survivors

Left to honor her memory and continue her legacy are her beloved children:

Dr. Deborah (Harold) Ruffin – Newport News, VA

Helen Burgess – Hamden, CT

Delphine Burgess – Hamden, CT

Bishop Dr David R. Burgess, Sr (Lori) – Hamden, CT

Bonus children:

Bishop Elect Dr. DHati T. Burgess Sr.

Kevin R. Burgess Sr.(Delana)

Overseer Designate Eric F. Daniels Jr.

Great-grandson: Kevin Burgess Jr.

Personna Hall

Lucresha Cole

She is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and Three great-great-grandchildren, her brothers-in-love Alphonso Burgess Sr., Larry Burgess, sisters-in-love Ollie Farah, Sarah Hall, Dorothy Gregg, Annette Powell, Leona Polite, Mary Ellen Bishoff. Bonus sisters Barbara Brunson, Barbara Beauford, Rachel Byrd, and Vanetta Lloyd, along with a host of extended family members and friends who were touched by her life.

Preceded in Death

Eldress Burgess was preceded in death by her loving and devoted husband the late Robert Burgess Jr, sister Mary Louise Greene; brothers Therodges "Doc" Greene Sr. and James Greene Sr.; her son Edward Burgess; and her great-granddaughter Kiana Brown Burgess.

Though she has departed this earthly realm, her light, love, and legacy will continue to shine in all who knew her.

Cemetery Details

Beaverdale Memorial Park

90 Pine Rock Avenue
New Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Union Temple Baptist Church
54 Platt Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Homegoing Celebration

DEC 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Union Temple Baptist Church
54 Platt Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Tribute Wall

PL

“ I first met Mrs. Burgess in 1987 when I began working at The New Haven Child Development Program. She was a Head Teacher in our urban preschool programs. In addition to her love for children, she possessed a love for the Lord and a love for humanity that was unmatched. She was a woman of faith, a woman of prayer, and a woman of deep integrity. She could quote Scriptures from the Bible and apply them to our everyday struggles better than anyone that I had ever seen before or since. She was so easy to talk to about biblical truths and about life in general, never judgmental, but always with a listening ear and responding lovingly with Scriptural texts that applied to our current life challenges. She was more than a godly woman; in many ways, she became "my spiritual mother" as she helped guide me through the trials of my life at that time. I so cherished our talks and my life has been greatly enriched for having known her. She was one of the brightest, shining lights in this world and her shining light has now been transferred into the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To my dear, loyal, and loving friend, I echo the words of our Lord when He said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

To Mrs. Burgess' family: You have my sincerest heartfelt condolences! To those of you who I knew well from my earliest days at NHCDP in the 1980s, Dr. Debra Ruffin, her son David, and her sister, my coworker, Vanetta Lloyd, my heartfelt love to each of you. What a blessing it has been to have her with us all these years with her godly wisdom, inner peace, and tranquil joy that she passed on to each of us who were in her presence. I know your hearts are heavy at this difficult time (mine is too!), but know that Ann is now in the loving, everlasting arms of her Lord and Savior who she loved so much.

My prayers are with each and every one of you.

Paul Lepri

Paul Lepri - December 20, 2025 at 07:35 AM

DR

Thank you so much for the kind words of condolences. We greatly appreciate you!

Dr. Deborah Ruffin - December 24, 2025 at 05:55 PM

MK

“ *My deepest condolences to family and friends.* ”



Ms. Quitana King - December 18, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ *To our brother David Burgess's Family, please accept our deepest condolences. Praying that God gives you strength, comfort, and peace during this difficult time. May your loved one rest in eternal peace.* ”

Chi Omicron Ques - December 18, 2025 at 09:09 PM

TR

“ *Thomas and Katrina Ruffin lit a candle in memory of Annie Greene-Burgess* ”



Thomas and Katrina Ruffin - December 18, 2025 at 08:36 PM

TR

“ A wonderful woman you i enjoy talking with i will miss her. My heart is full of sadness and enjoy for she with her lord and savior. And that there's peace. She was my friend. So rejoice family and friends God bless this family

Thomas and Katrina Ruffin - December 18, 2025 at 08:34 PM

JC

“ James Clayton lit a candle in memory of Annie Greene-Burgess



James Clayton - December 18, 2025 at 07:01 PM

BF

“ On Behalf Of The Benton Family We Send Our Deepest Condolences And Prayers To Our Family, Remember Weeping May Endure For A Night But Joy Comes In The Morning...Love Y'all ❤️🌹❤️



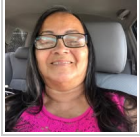
Benton Family - December 18, 2025 at 06:54 AM

KB

“ Rest peacefully



Karen Brown - December 18, 2025 at 06:24 AM



“ To Bishop Burgess & Family,
We send our deepest condolences to you. We
are here for you at this sad time. We love you
& are praying for you. Dea. Willie & Sis.
Gaynell Martin



Gaynell Martin - December 18, 2025 at 01:24 AM

AS

“ Sending my condolences to the family of
Mother our prayers of comfort and love is sent
from Newport News. Deborah we love you
and our heart and prayers are with you 🌹
From Antionette and Family.



Antionette Sedgwick - December 17, 2025 at 11:57 PM

PW

“ Aunt Ann, was a steady presence in my life. As a child I loved going
to her house after church to get macaroni and cheese. Whenever I
had a milestone no matter how far she had to travel, she was
always there. I want to publicly thank her children for living the
scriptures: Honor your mother and father...
She will be missed but now rest aunt Ann ❤️
Patricia Wilson Witherspoon (SC)

Patricia Witherspoon - December 17, 2025 at 07:02 PM

TM

“ The James Family, Baltimore Md. lit a candle
in memory of Annie Greene-Burgess



The James Family, Baltimore Md. - December 17, 2025 at 03:04 PM

TM

“ *The James Family, Baltimore Md. lit a candle in memory of Annie Greene-Burgess*



The James Family, Baltimore Md. - December 17, 2025 at 03:02 PM

OJ

“ *Oliver and Hilda James lit a candle in memory of Annie Greene-Burgess*



Oliver and Hilda James - December 17, 2025 at 02:59 PM

T(

“ *The Greene Family (SC) purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Eldress Annie Ruth Greene-Burgess.*



The Greene Family (SC) - December 17, 2025 at 11:42 AM

SR

“ *Shaynise Rose lit a candle in memory of Annie Greene-Burgess*



Shaynise Rose - December 17, 2025 at 08:55 AM

LT

“ Family Our Deepest Condolences Are With You All. Cousin Ann Has Always Been And Will Continue To Be A Very Special Part Of Our Lives. Such A True Woman If God And The Matriarch Of Our Family. She Will Forever Have A Special Place In Our Hearts And Soul. We Love You Cousin Ann But God Loves You Best. Rest On Sweet Woman Of God.



Loretta Taylor - December 17, 2025 at 07:42 AM

SM

“ To the family of Eldress Burgess. I have known your mother and grandmother through the friendship of my mother Dorothy Moody. How they enjoy fellowship together, being a youngster looking up to women of God. She continued to pour into me and we had a good relationship. I am lifting you all up in prayer at this most difficult time. Keep her memories close at heart. Love Sylvia Davis-Moody

Sylvia Davis moody - December 16, 2025 at 07:08 PM

BF

“ Brunson, Joyner, Crupup, and Frederick purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Eldress Annie Ruth Greene-Burgess.



Brunson, Joyner, Crupup, and Frederick - December 16, 2025 at 02:38 PM

KF

“ *Kelvan Fitzpatrick lit a candle in memory of Annie Greene-Burgess*



Kelvan Fitzpatrick - December 16, 2025 at 12:56 AM

LS

“ *Love Wanda and Anthony Hawkins Sr. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eldress Annie Ruth Greene-Burgess.*

Love Wanda and Anthony Hawkins Sr. - December 15, 2025 at 04:25 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Eldress Annie Ruth Greene-Burgess.*



December 15, 2025 at 04:25 PM