



Mother Leona Bowman

July 2, 1924 - April 10, 2026

Mrs. Leona Jackson Bowman, a beloved matriarch, caregiver, and woman of unwavering faith, peacefully transitioned from this life on April 10, 2026, at the remarkable age of 101. She was born on July 2, 1924, in Newark, New Jersey, and later relocated to Lithonia, Georgia, where she resided until her passing. She transitioned home, surrounded by the love and presence of her family.

Leona's life was one of resilience and strength. She was preceded in death by her loving mother, Gussie Mae Jackson, and her father, William D. Jackson. At the tender age of four, Leona experienced the loss of her mother—a moment that shaped her strength and character for the rest of her life. She and her siblings, Daisy Jackson, Mary Jackson, and Alpatason "Buddy" Jackson, who all preceded her in death, were lovingly raised by their father and stepmother.

Leona attended school in the Newark school system, where she enjoyed running track, playing basketball, and gymnastics. She also loved singing in the church choir. She was known for her fabulous fashion sense and was always dressed to impress. Leona found joy in working puzzles, reading her Bible, shopping, and faithfully attending church events. Above all, she cherished spending time with her family and friends.

Leona loved telling stories about her childhood and upbringing. She had a gift

for motivating others and always spoke with honesty and truth. She often shared powerful memories of living through the Great Depression and witnessing the Civil Rights Movement, reflecting on the hardships of those times while also expressing how those experiences shaped strength, perseverance, and appreciation for life.

She happily married the love of her life, Joe “Boone” Bowman, and together they welcomed four of her eight children into the world. They lived in loving matrimony until his passing in 2012. Together, they owned several family businesses and instilled discipline, independence, and respect in their children and everyone they encountered.

Leona was a fighter in every sense of the world. She was diagnosed with cancer in her late 70s and faced it with courage, strength, and unwavering faith. She fought a tough battle, never giving in, and emerged as a proud survivor. Her strength and determination were a testament to the resilience she carried throughout her life.

Despite life’s many challenges, Leona remained a woman of grace, compassion, and unwavering faith. While she was a genuine sweetheart, she was also known for her feisty attitude—her fist always balled up and ready for whatever came her way, a true reflection of her strength, boldness, and determination. She taught herself how to survive and instilled that same strength, independence, and perseverance in each of her children and grandchildren.

Leona was known for her favorite saying, “Just keep on living,” and that is exactly how she lived her life. She approached each day as if it were her last, always giving praise and thanks to God. She loved to break out in song, especially her favorite, “I Don’t Feel No Ways Tired,” which she sang often as a testimony of her strength and faith. She lived by the words, “If you don’t use

it, you lose it,” staying active and independent throughout her life. Her resilience carried her to the beautiful age of 101.

She often reminded her family, “I’m still here, I made it, and I don’t look like what I’ve been through,” encouraging them to trust in God and believe that they can do all things through Christ.

She was the proud mother of eight beautiful children: Carol Deans of Riverdale, Georgia; Michael Laurel of Wilmington, Delaware; Wahid Shakoor of Lithonia, Georgia; Yusuf Shakoor of Atlanta, Georgia; Sultan Shakoor of Lithonia, Georgia; and Cheryle Bowman of Conyers, Georgia. She was also preceded in death by her two sons, Reginald “Reggie” Laurel and Naim Shakoor.

Leona leaves to cherish her memory of 36 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren, and 26 great-great-grandchildren, along with a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family. She also leaves behind her special friend Judy, along with dear loved ones Linda Liango, Medina Kerton, and her niece Barbara Merritt, and many devoted friends who will forever treasure her memory.

A woman of deep and abiding faith, Leona was a dedicated and faithful member of Fairfield Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia, where she actively served for over 50 years. She was truly a mother of the church, offering guidance, love, and spiritual support to many throughout her lifetime. Her home was a place of warmth, love, and cherished memories—a safe haven where family gathered, and bonds were strengthened. She lived as an example of perseverance, faith, and unconditional love.

Though she will be deeply missed, we find comfort in knowing that her beautiful soul is at peace, reunited with her beloved husband and all loved ones who preceded her in death.

She will forever live in the hearts and memories of all who knew and loved her.

“Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord.” –
Matthew 25:23

Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, 4347 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, Georgia 30034.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **19**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B Levett and Son Funeral Home - Flat Shoals Location
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy
Decatur, GA 30034

Celebration of Life Service

APR **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fairfield Baptist Church
6133 Redan Road
Lithonia, GA 30058

Burial

APR **20**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Kennedy Memorial Gardens
2500 River Road
Ellenwood, GA 30294

Tribute Wall

LI

“ *Mother Leona Bowman was an unparalleled matriarch of her family. She was one of the funniest people I have know, always filling the room with laughter no matter what the circumstances. Rest in Power!*
Lizz Toledo

Lizz - April 20 at 05:29 PM



“ *Sincerest Sorrow Blue & White was purchased for the family of Mother Leona Bowman.*



April 18 at 07:08 PM

PJ

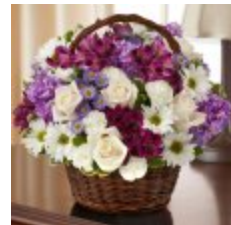
“ *Mother Bowman, with your best-dressed self, now sits among the beautiful heavenly angels that adorn the New Jerusalem. Safe passage until we meet again.*



Patsy Johnson - April 15 at 06:10 PM

FK

“ *From Carli and Kiva purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Mother Leona Bowman.*



From Carli and Kiva - April 15 at 02:45 PM

SS

“ *SassC' Shakoor lit a candle in memory of Mother Leona Bowman*



SassC' Shakoor - April 15 at 12:53 PM

SS

“ *Mommy 💕 Of Our many conversations there wasn't a time that You didn't tell Me that "Whoever named You Sassy, knew what they were talking about because that mouth of Yours doesn't miss a beat" 😂 We shared many moments of laughter that; often times, turned difficulties into clarity, misunderstandings into tough love, and somber encounters into joy, which defined how Joyful and Loving Our relationship was. Our expressed emotions was Agapè, (a genuine love that's reverent via God's expectations). A true Love that didn't require any explanations because the emotions were shown and known. 💕*

I'll miss You Mommy 💕 My Love transitions with You and dissipates to a place that is eternal. Rest in Peace Mommy, knowing that Your Days here weren't spent in Vain but celebrated in God's Grace and Will for shy of 102 years. That's Favoritism 🙌 See You later, Leona



SassC' Shakoor - April 15 at 12:41 PM

JB

Beautiful

Joseph Bowman - April 21 at 11:09 AM

WJ

“ I knew the day I met you I saw the strength & fierceness that was you, I will miss you and our visits especially when Chasity would be there at the same time and we started talking and I would look at her and she would say I'm not listening! And my goodness she could put away some food, especially the time I came and she was eating KFC to the bone and I said you ate all that? And she would say I can do more if you put it front of me! Truly a queen and a solider of the Lord 🙏 I will truly miss our visits. Rest in Love! My sincerest condolences to her wonderfyl family...Heaven gained an Angel🕊️
Melissa you took the best care of her...solid as a rock!
With Love Wali❤️

wali johnson - April 14 at 10:04 PM

KT

“ Cheryl Your Mom Was One Of A Kind So Sweet & Humble! She Will Truly Be Missed! 🙏🕊️🙏 May God Continue To Bless You and Give You Strength and Comfort Sis! 🙏

Karen Tatum - April 14 at 04:45 PM

DS

“ Ma when I first met you I saw so much in you how you love God and had to be in the house of the Lord you really was a Beautiful person who I admire when we were together. Now look you are singing and dancing like no other. I'm going to miss you. I love you with all my heart 💜
Your Daughter In Love Dana Shakoor

Dana Shakoor - April 14 at 08:14 AM

HE

“ Auntie £ I loved and always admired you .
Listening watching you and your sister Daisey Mae
(deceased)figuring it out in person Newark NJ or by phone .Always
kept me very vigilant and wise. I hear you in my ear Sana work hard
and keep going enjoy life...YOU IN TOWN SEE YOU AT CHURCH
....Rest well
QUEEN

Hassana J Ellison - April 14 at 01:19 AM

FN

“ Grandma, you're one of a kind at 101 yrs old!! Your words will stay
in my mind “Keep Living” and your soul soared to the heavens like
the Queen you are . Since I was a little girl you always stayed
flawless and you will always be HER. Take your Bow Grandma Job
well done 💜

Fatimah Nelson - April 13 at 11:10 PM

ME

“ Ms. Bowman,

It's hard to put into words what you have meant to me over the past 30+ years. You were never just someone I knew, you were family. You always called me the daughter and granddaughter you chose, and I carried that with so much love and pride.

We shared so many moments together, memories I will hold close to my heart forever. I am especially grateful for the time I spent with you recently, even though I did not realize that would be our last visit. Being there with you, caring for you, and even feeding you that last time is something I will never forget. It was emotional, but it was also an honor.

You lived an incredible life, over 100 years filled with strength, resilience, and grace. I have always admired your tenacity and the way you carried yourself through everything. You taught me more than you probably ever knew.

While my heart is heavy, I find peace in knowing that you are resting now, free and in a better place. That thought brings me comfort.

I love you forever, and you will always be deeply missed.

*Peace and love always,
Medina*

Medina - April 13 at 10:32 PM

NW

“ I was Blessed with the Best Grandmother in the world, Me in my Brothers was fortunate to be raised by my Grandmother, She raised us right in gave us the tools to be the Men we are today, Thank U Grandma, I Will Always Love U, I Miss U Already! Your Grandson Nijin💜

Nijin Williams - April 13 at 10:24 PM

CB

“ Rest in heaven, Mrs. Bowman🌺, which lived a life full of love, kindness and joy. Her unwavering strength, wisdom, kindness, beauty and compassion touched my life many years ago.



May God shower his love and comfort to all of her love ones. May the happiest memories bring you a sense of peace at this difficult time.

Claudine Benton - April 13 at 10:09 PM

AB

“ My grandma was my everything and left a true legacy behind!! I have big shoes to fill, but I'm glad I learned from the best!! 101 yrs of living.. "keep on living" Your favorite granddaughter Ameenah B.

Ameenah Bowman - April 13 at 09:12 PM