



# Mary Ann Brown

FEB 29, 1928 - JUL 31, 2020



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## Mary Ann Brown

FEB 29, 1928 - JUL 31, 2020

**M**ary Ann Brown, age 92, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 31, 2020. She is survived by sons Paul (Terry) Brown of Atlanta, GA, John (Bonnie) Brown of Sebring, FL, William (Wista) Brown of Apokoa, FL, Arkley Brown of Sharonville, OH; daughters Frances (Lonzo) Coleman of Solon, OH, Brenda Brown of Sebring, FL, Teresa Adams of Atlanta, GA; sisters Barbara Bates of Bloomington, IL, Brenda Brown of Columbus, OH and Sevela Lewis of Columbus, OH; and sister-in-law Ann Elam of Eastlake, OH. She's also survived by 16 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren; as well as host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by husband Paul Lawrence Brown; children Philip Douglas Brown and Shelby Eugene Brown; parents Frederick and Lillian (Banks) Owens; brothers Donald Owens, Fred Owens; William Owens and sister Helen Owens.

Born February 29, 1928 in Lima, Ohio, Mary Ann was a graduate of Lima Central High School. She married Paul Brown on December 24, 1946 with whom she shared 69 years of wedded bliss. Mary Ann accepted Christ and joined St. Paul AME church as a young girl. She later became an active member of Second Baptist Church in Lima, Ohio.

Inspired by her son Shelby, Mary Ann became a life-long crusader for the developmentally disabled. She began her crusade in 1953 as a community organizer for the Council for Retarded Citizens (CRC) and continued as a consummate volunteer for the next 20 years. As a founding member of the CRC, she took on a variety of roles including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Trustee, Teacher, Chairperson and even Bus Driver. She was instrumental in opening "Robin Rodgers", the first school in Ohio for the mentally retarded known now as Marimor School. Her efforts with the CRC also culminated in a day care for the developmentally disabled (Robin Rogers Day Care) and a workshop where disabled adults could find employment (Marimor Industries). She additionally served the community as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, Allen County



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Foster Parent, Memorial Hospital Auxiliary associate, Spring View Manor volunteer and United Way volunteer.

In 1974, Mary Ann was selected to be the first executive director of The Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC). Under her supervision, The ARC developed a 38-acre recreational area for the disabled and established several residential homes for disabled individuals in need of housing. She subsequently spearheaded efforts to establish a long-term care facility for the more severely disabled. In 1984, a 32-unit facility was built for this purpose and named "The Mary Ann Brown Residential Facility" in honor of her 30-plus years of service to the developmentally disabled. Mary Ann retired from the ARC in 1995 but continued to work tirelessly as a volunteer and advocate for many years thereafter.

She was bestowed many accolades throughout the years for her work with the disabled including: Senior Citizen Hall of Fame (State of Ohio), President's Award (Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities), Woman of Achievement Award (Girl Scout Council), Golden Rule Award (J.C. Penney), Service to Mankind Award (Sertoma Club), Book of Golden Deeds Award (Lima Exchange Club), Outstanding Community Service Award (Southside Community Center), Volunteer of the Year Award (United Way), Woman of the Year (Delphos Herald) and Human Relations Award (Frontier Intl Club).

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, no public memorial or service is planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in memory of her be made to: The ARC of Allen County ([www.arcallencounty.org](http://www.arcallencounty.org)) 546 S Collett St, Lima, OH 45805.

Online condolences may be shared by visiting [www.bankspagetheus.com](http://www.bankspagetheus.com). Arrangements are entrusted to Banks/Page-Theus Funerals and Cremations.



## Tribute Wall

**Mary Ann Brown**

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**Barbara Washington** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

My condolences to the family. She lived an honorable life. May she rest in peace.

August 3 at 6:12 PM



**Louie And Melanie (Kirk) Stokes** posted:

All of the Brown family is in our thoughts and prayers. Your Mom was a wonderful woman and was a friend to all. Heaven has gained such a passionate angel. Our hearts go out to you all in this time of sorrow. Louie and Melanie (Kirk) Stokes

August 3 at 11:38 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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