



Irene Theresa Brooks

September 20, 1950 - June 15, 2026

Irene Theresa Howard Brooks (affectionately known as "Rese"), age 75, received her heavenly wings on June 15, 2026, following a lengthy illness. She was a devoted wife, a nurturing mother, an adoring grandmother, and a transformative educator whose legacy spanned generations of students and teachers.

Born on September 20, 1950, Rese was the fifth of six children blessed to the union of the late Milton W. Howard, Sr. and Miriam Middleton Howard. Raised in Summerville, South Carolina, she attended local public schools and graduated from Summerville High School in 1968. Guided by a profound love for learning, she pursued post-secondary education at South Carolina State College, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education in 1972, followed by her Master of Arts degree in English and Counseling in 1974.

While enrolled in graduate school at her alma mater, Rese taught a class where she met a freshman student who had been recently honorably discharged from the Army after a tour in Vietnam, and who became deeply fond of her. Their connection blossomed into a lifelong romance. On August 10, 1974, she united in holy matrimony with the love of her life, Benjamin T. Brooks, Sr. Together, they built a beautiful life defined by 53 years of unbroken togetherness and 51 years of devoted marriage, a bond severed only by her

peaceful passing.

Rese began her exceptional professional career as a school teacher in Bowman, South Carolina. In 1976, after Benjamin graduated from South Carolina State, corporate recruitment by a fortune 500 company led the young couple to Cincinnati, Ohio. It was during their two years in Ohio that they welcomed their first child, Benjamin, Jr. Following her maternity leave, Rese returned to her passion in the classroom.

A subsequent career promotion for her husband brought the family to Baltimore, Maryland, where their blessings multiplied with the births of their daughters, Lindsey in 1982 and Ashley in 1984. After dedicating herself fully to nurturing her young children, Rese briefly transitioned into the corporate arena. However, her enduring love for children inevitably drew her back to the classroom. A devout Catholic, and a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (now St. Gabriel), in 1995 she began working at John Paul Regional Catholic School (JPRCS) in Windsor Mill, Maryland.

Her natural leadership and pedagogical expertise quickly paved the way for administrative advancement. In 2000, she became an Assistant Principal, and in 2005, she was promoted to Principal. She served faithfully in this role for seven academic years until her retirement in 2012. Throughout her tenure, Principal Brooks was deeply respected by her faculty, adored by her students, and highly admired by parents.

Never one to remain idle, Rese spent the next four years sharing her administrative talents at her husband's accounting firm. Three years later, she returned to education as a part-time staff administrator during the final 2016-2017 academic year of JPRCS. For the past seven years, she continued to stay active by providing part-time services for her son's tax and accounting firm, bringing her signature warmth and sharp mind to the family business.

Rese's life was a testament to love, service, and family. Her memory will be forever cherished and kept alive by her devoted husband of 51 years, Benjamin T. Brooks, Sr.; her loving children: son, Benjamin T. Brooks, Jr. (Alexandra), and daughters, Lindsey Toth (Kevin) and Ashley Brooks; and her seven adored grandchildren: Isabella Brooks, Hannah Brooks, Olivia Brooks; Natalie Toth, Matthew Toth, Claire Toth; and Adam Graves. She also leaves behind her beloved sister, Gertrude Williams (Bernell); her brother, Harold Howard (Linda); and a host of extended family, former students, colleagues, and friends.

She was preceded in triumphant entry into heaven by her parents, Milton W. Howard, Sr. and Miriam M. Howard, and her three brothers, Milton Howard, Jr., Johnny Howard, and Raymond Howard.

Today's Events

Public Viewing

JUN 28. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Upcoming Events

Funeral Service

JUN 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cathedral Of Mary Our Queen
5200 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

In Lieu of Flowers

JUN 29 (ET)

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to:
Roberta's House, 928 E. North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21202,
to continue her passion for this highly respected Family Grief Support Center

<https://robertashouse.org/give/>

Tribute Wall

AP

“ I was a student at John Paul while she was the principal. Favorite memory is when Mrs Brooks gave me a gift from when she visited out of the country. I will always cherish that memory.

Andrew Parker - Yesterday at 05:58 PM

RJ

“ This world has been blessed to have known such a wonderful person. We have known Theresa for over 30 years. First as business acquaintance through B&R Tax Service. Later as neighbors, friends, and family. We are sending out prayers to Senator Ben Brooks Sr. and the entire family. Theresa always and had a sweet smile and pleasant personality. She will be surely missed. May our good Lord continue bless and keep you all.



Peace and love, Rudy & Joyce Jackson

Rupert Jackson - Yesterday at 02:00 PM

JH

“ In loving memory of my dear sweet cousin Rese. The soul takes flight to the world invisible, there arriving is assured bliss and forever dwells in paradise . Sending love and prayers and hope for as we pass from this life immediately we are reborn and reunited with all those we loved and this time there will be no sickness nor pain and no more parting or farewells. This time we will be happy again and this time will not be fleeting it will be for eternity. For this time we will have finally made it home. Lean and depend on God and though your hearts are heavy and sad rejoice for Rese and celebrate her life for surely one day you will see her again. My love to all, Rudy



Joseph R. Howard - June 26 at 03:14 PM

JA

Mrs. Brooks was more than a friend to us, she was family. Her love and kindness to us when we would come to prepare our taxes included such hospitality as feeding us, asking about the children, expressing her joy and satisfaction over about my career and accomplishments, and recounting how she had met someone whom she told all about the good things I was doing at the university. My entire family would miss her warm reception and true and genuine care for us all. She would be greatly missed!

Johnson and Juanita Akinleye

johnson Akinleye - 9 hours ago

IM

“ *Irvina Mallory sent a virtual gift in memory of Irene Theresa Brooks*



Irvina Mallory - June 26 at 12:55 PM

IM

“ Dear Ben and family,

We are so sorry to hear that our beautiful neighbor, Theresa has passed. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

May God continue to strengthen you and provide His powerful peace and comfort.

With condolences, prayers and love,

TJ and Irvina Mallory

Irvina Mallory - June 26 at 12:54 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



March Life Tribute Center - June 26 at 10:48 AM

FP

“ *Wash her in the holy font of everlasting life and clothe her in her heavenly wedding garment. Rest in peace Theresa.*

Frank H. Perkins - June 25 at 01:16 PM

GS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Brooks and Howard families. Theresa will be remembered for her kindness and pleasant personality for those who knew her. We grew up with her in Summerville in the same community and attended the same school and church. May God who knows how great your loss and feels the hurt you bear, grant you peace and comfort during your bereavement and keep you in His care. Gerard & Bernice Scott, Summerville, SC

Gerard Scott - June 24 at 10:36 PM



“ My name is Christine, and I attended JPRCS from 1995 to 2001. Mrs. Brooks was a truly beautiful person, both inside and out. Our families shared so many deep connections—my friend Ashley was slightly older than me, my Uncle Steve was friends with her son Ben, and my mother was friends with Lindsey. We were connected at church, in school, and throughout our personal lives. She was an incredible support to my grandparents while they were raising me during my middle school years. When I graduated eighth grade, she even implemented a special award just for me, sparking a brand-new tradition. From her help with Bible camp to her dedication at church, she was always giving back. The last physical memory I have of her is when she and her husband attended my grandmother's surprise 80th birthday party, where he presented my grandmother with an award. The Brooks family is truly amazing. I hope you can find comfort in all the wonderful memories and laughs you shared, and that you carry her strength with you through this difficult time. I am so sorry I cannot attend the funeral in person, but you are all in my thoughts, prayers, and heart. Sending you all my love.

Christine Kardiasmenos - June 23 at 10:12 PM

JL

“ *What's crazy is how much of this story I knew. But first I met her daughter's. Then I came to know their amazing mom. One day she became my guidance counselor and teacher. There is only one Mrs. Brooks but many who are better for knowing her and having her and her family in our lives. Hugs to you all and heartfelt thanks for sharing her with us.*

Jen LH - June 23 at 09:14 PM

CG

“ *Charlotte O. Gordon*

My sincere condolences, Benjamin, Ben, Lindsey, and Ashley. May God be with you at this time and ease your pain. Rese was such a lovely person and a good friend. She will be missed.

Charlotte O. Gordon - June 23 at 04:43 PM

DP

“ *My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all friends and family.*

Dr. Kevin W. Parson. - June 23 at 12:40 PM

CM

“ *The last time I saw you was on Memorial Day and you were joking with us and just being your lovely self as usual! You will be missed! Our deepest condolences to the family 🙏*

Carissa Matthews - June 23 at 12:34 PM

ME

“ So sorry for your loss. Praying for your family
Marietta



Marietta English - June 23 at 12:30 PM

LG

“ My sincerest condolences to the Brooks family. May God bless you
all.

Leon Gibson - June 23 at 11:24 AM

SS

“ Sincere condolences and sympathies, go out to Brother Ben, Sr.,
the entire Brooks Family, dear friends, students and colleagues of
our beloved “Mom” Theresa Brooks. Undoubtedly, we all shall miss
her heartwarming smile and unswerving compassion for others, her
remarkable dedication to education and learning, and, her shining
example of achievement, excellence and wisdom. This world, has
yet again, lost another trailblazing “Champion-of-Life” !



... “until we meet again”... 🙏

Shaun & Tammy Snell, and Family💕

Shaun & Tammy Snell - June 22 at 08:03 PM

RD

“ *May God give you strength and peace during this time of loss. I hope you can find comfort in the love and memories you shared with her. Keeping you and your family in our prayers.*



From Ronnie Davis & Family

Ronnie Davis - June 22 at 06:53 PM



“ *Greetings Friends & Family, Mrs. Brooks taught at John Paul Regional Catholic School when me and my cousin (Herbert) attended. What I will remember the most about her is her kindness, smile, patience, and the love she had for her students. I could genuinely feel the love from her on how she interacted with me as student. My prayer is for peace and comfort for her family and all those that loved Mrs. Brooks. Warm regards, Candice Willie c/o 2000*



Candice Willie - June 22 at 06:00 PM

AP

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Theresa`s passing. We all know that she was such a caring and gentle soul. Therefore, she is surely in the arms of her Creator. We are happy for her, but feel such pain for Ben, Lindsey, and Ashley. You are in my thoughts and prayers. God will help you get through this loss.*

Ann Parker

Ann Parker - June 22 at 05:01 PM

EC

“ My heartfelt condolences go out to the Brooks family. Ms. Theresa was such a sweet, caring, and gentle soul. While working in the district office from time to time she would check in on me, and I will always cherish the meaningful conversations we shared.

I am truly grateful to have known her and thankful to Senator Brooks for sharing her with all of us. Her warmth, kindness, and beautiful spirit will not be forgotten, and she will be greatly missed.

Essence Cropper - June 22 at 04:33 PM

DH

“ I'm grateful for the laughter and conversation I shared with Theresa at the Young's Memorial Day Cookout, not knowing it would be our last. Those beautiful memories will stay with me. Theresa will be deeply missed. My heartfelt condolences to Senator Ben Brooks and family.

Dr. Sherri Holt, Earl and Family

Dr. Sherri Holt - June 22 at 03:25 PM

LF

“ My husband, Monty, and I have such fond memories of Theresa. We were privileged to spend time with Theresa and Ben at several conferences in our shared capacity as environmental legislators. She clearly was devoted to Senator Brooks and her family. She was so pleasant and engaging that she engendered such fondness. I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with "my buddy," as she would refer to me. I didn't know her well, but I will miss her nevertheless. Our upcoming annual summer conferences won't be as enjoyable as the ones we attended together. May her memory be a blessing to Ben and her entire family.

Delegate Linda Foley

Linda Foley - June 22 at 01:18 PM

JM

“ *Ms. Theresa was the light of Sen. Ben's life. A gentle, nurturing force for good, her presence was the epitome of leading lightly. I am lucky to have known her and spent time in the same space. May her soul be liberated forever.*

Jyoti Mohan

Jyoti Mohan - June 21 at 08:48 PM

EC

“ *I'm a friend of Mrs. Brooks daughter, Ashley and I'll always remember how she asked after my children often. Ashley would always say, "Mom asked how the boys are doing." It meant so much to me. It felt like my kids had another grandmother. I found myself referring to her as "Mom" too. I feel blessed to have known her and I will miss her.*

My prayers are with the Brooks family.

Ericka Crichlow - June 21 at 08:01 PM

MS

“ *Words alone are not enough to describe our 70-year friendship. We met in first grade in Summerville, SC in 1956 and stayed friends all these decades. I will miss our conversations, but the memories we experienced and shared over our friendship journey will full my heart forever. I will continue to pray for strength for Ben Sr., Ben Jr., Lindsay, Ashley and your extended family. Rest in his loving peace, Rese. Mahaliah (Perkins) Levine - Sinclair, Glendale, Az*

Mahaliah Levine Sinclair - June 21 at 06:41 PM



“ *Sending condolences from the Dennis Thomas family. You were the best principal to us, and I thank you so much for being there for us. You will be so missed.*

Sunshine Thomas - June 21 at 11:51 AM

DB

“ *Darren Bulluck & Family extend our deepest sympathy to the Brooks family. We pray that God will give you comfort and peace during this time.*

Darren Bulluck - June 20 at 05:50 PM

MM

“ *Family of Mrs Brooks,
I send my condolences in the lose of Mrs Brooks. I knew Mrs Brook thru her husband Ben Brooks.
May God strengthen you
In the name of Jesus
Maurice Moody*

Maurice Moody - June 20 at 09:04 AM

IB

“ *Mrs. Theresa was a lovely Lady and a great person to be around, whether with-in the family business or just personally. We ALL will miss her pleasant spirit and friendly manner. We have heavy hearts and Our prayers are with the Brooks Family.*



The Ivory & L'Tanya Buck Family

Ivory & L'Tanya Buck - June 20 at 12:55 AM

CH

“ Theresa was such a great person! I got to know her when our kids were going to John Paul Regional School together. When my daughter Katie out grew my Grandfather's hand built doll house we shared it with Theresa so her daughters could have fun with it. My prayers will be for the repose of her soul and for Ben to cope with his loss!

Chris Heizer - June 20 at 12:04 AM

FC

“ Faye Courtney sent a virtual gift in memory of Irene Theresa Brooks



Faye Courtney - June 19 at 10:48 PM

FC

“ I worked with Theresa for many years. Theresa also was my children's teacher but most of all she was my true friend. I loved her like she was my own sister. My heart goes out to Ben and family. I will keep you in my prayers. My heart is broken



Faye Courtney - June 19 at 08:07 PM

TH

I had the pleasure of knowing Teresa also working with her, and my children went to the school when she was their principal. It's really a wonderful person very kind.

Terry Heizer - June 19 at 11:36 PM

KP

Mrs. Brooks was such a lovely lady and was well thought of by my family. My condolences to her family. She will be missed 🙏. The Parker family.

Kimberly Parker - June 20 at 06:30 PM

CL

I felt Mrs. Brooks' warmth from the moment she greeted me at a job fair. She was even there when I graduated college (actually she was there attending her own daughter's commencement, but was excited when she said she saw me)! Theresa hired me fresh out of college, practically a child then, and I loved working at JPRCS. Though my time there was brief, as I made a career pivot, I thought of her but lost touch. I was thrilled to get back in touch with her thanks to finding Ashley on Facebook, and then Theresa. I am grateful that she met all of my children. (They refer to her as, "The nice lady that was your first boss that lives in a mansion", based on a visit to her lovely home where they were impressed, and enjoyed the company of Ben's children, and picked fruit from one of their trees). She will be greatly missed. My heart goes out to you, the Brooks family.

-Cara (Aymold) Lagatare

Cara Lagatare - June 21 at 09:40 PM

LM

“ *LaTia Smith and family, Developing Minds purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Irene Theresa Brooks.*



LaTia Smith and family, Developing Minds - June 19 at 03:36 PM

LM

“ *LaTia Smith and family, Developing Minds planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Irene Theresa Brooks.*

LaTia Smith and family, Developing Minds - June 19 at 03:36 PM

MB

“ Truly missing our beloved sister "Rece." My prayers and thoughts are continuously flowing for my Big Brother Benjamin and the rest of his family. Much love always, Bro.John,Sis MaryAnn and the Clan

Mary Brooks-Brown - June 19 at 03:22 PM

MC

“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love, and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

march life tribute center - June 18 at 04:26 PM