

Administrative Postscript

Committal

Thursday 16th April, 2026
St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY
Section 049, Row G, Grave 1125

Funeral service

Date: Thursday 16th April, 2026
Time: 10am-12pm
Location: 179-24 Linden Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11434

Viewing (Private)

Viewing: 9am - 10am
Location: J. Foster Phillips Funeral Home Inc.
(718) 526-5656
179-24 Linden Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11434



*A Celebration of Life
and the
Blessed Hope*



Waida N. Njoku
December 4, 1933 - April 1, 2026

*A Celebration of Life
and the
Blessed Hope*



Naida N. Njoku

December 4, 1933 - April 1, 2026

Order of Service

The Prelude & Processional

The Opening Sentences: Pastor Glenroy Pryce
(Reading John 11:11, 25-26): "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep... Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

The Service of the Word

The Invocation: Pastor Glenroy Pryce
Most Holy Father, we thank Thee for the life of Naida. As we face the reality that 'the dust returns to the earth as it was' (Ecclesiastes 12:7), we thank Thee that her spirit-her breath of life-is safe in Thy hands. Comfort us with the truth that she rests in peace. Amen."

Opening Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - Congregation

Welcom: Sis A. Greeman

The New Testament Lesson: Chuk

(Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16; John 5:28-29): "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him... Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth."

Order of Service

The Old Testament Lesson: Eld E. Greeman

(Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; Psalm 115:17; Job 14:12-15):

"To every thing there is a season... a time to be born, and a time to die... The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence... So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep... Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee."

The Psalm of Comfort: Eld E. Greeman

(Reading Psalm 91)

Tributes & The Life Story

Life Sketch Sis A. Greeman

Tributes:

Poem: Naida

Reflections from Friends:

Musical Selection: "I come to the garden alone"

The Word: Pastor Glenroy Pryce

Order of Service

The Conclusion of the Service

Prayer of comfort

The Closing song: "It Is Well With My Soul"

Family/Friends Closing Remarks:

"Naida has laid down her earthly burden. She is 'asleep' in the arms of Jesus, awaiting the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8). Let us prepare our own hearts so that we may be caught up together with her in the clouds."

The Benediction: Ps. Rodney

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus... make you perfect in every good work. Amen."

Recessional: Leading to the place of rest.

Order of Service

The Rite of Committal

The Commitment: Pastor Glenroy Pryce

(Reading Genesis 3:19; Revelation 14:13): "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return... Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

The Final Prayer: Ps. Rodney

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

SDA Hymnal #100

Verse 1

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Verse 2

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!



It Is Well With My Soul



(SDA Hymn #530)

Verse 1

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Chorus

It is well, it is well,
With my soul, with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Verse 2

My sin, -oh, the joy of this glorious thought-
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Verse 3

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

I Come to the Garden Alone



Hymn No. 487.

Verse 1

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Chorus

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Verse 2

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

Verse 3

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling,
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

Our Father which art in heaven

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Verse 1

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen

Psalm 91

- 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
- 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
- 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
- 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.
- 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;
- 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
- 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.



Life Sketch



A Life of Healing, Courage, and Harmony

Naida N. Njoku

December 4, 1933 - April 1, 2026

Naida N. Njoku, a pioneering nurse, decorated educator, and dedicated community leader, peacefully fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at the age of 92. Her passing followed a stroke suffered on Sabbath, March 14, 2026. Throughout her ninety-plus years, Naida's life was defined by the motto she lived by: "Love Connects Us All."

Early Life and Education

Born in Harlem, New York, Naida was the daughter of the late Aston W. Nelson, originally of Jamaica, and Veronica Nelson of Baltimore. She was raised with a deep appreciation for her diverse heritage, which would later fuel

her passion for global travel and cultural education.

Naida's academic pursuit was relentless. She graduated from New York's Cathedral High School and the Bellevue Nursing School before earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) from St. John's University in 1958. Her commitment to excellence continued throughout her life, leading her to earn a Master of Arts (M.A.) in 1976 and a Master of Education (M. Ed.) in Nursing from Columbia

University in 1978.

Life Sketch



A Career of Global Service

Before her departure for Africa, Naida established herself as a leader in the American nursing field. She served as the Head Nurse in Medicine at Bellevue Hospital, an Industrial Nurse at Metropolitan Life Insurance, and a Public Health Nurse for Catholic schools in Brownsville, Brooklyn. She also held the positions of OB/GYN Supervisor at Unity Hospital and Instructor at Queens General Hospital.

In February 1961, Naida married Dr. John E. Njoku and moved to Nigeria. There, she served as a school nurse and teacher at Santa Maria in Enugu and as a Nursing Sister Instructor at St. Theresa's Hospital in Nsukka, where she also supervised vital traveling pre-natal clinics.

Military Service and the Nigerian Civil War

During the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970), Naida served with extraordinary bravery as a Nursing Sister Instructor and Army Nurse at Holy Rosary Hospital in Emekuku, working alongside the Irish Holy Rosary Nuns. She provided frontline medical care to the wounded, removed shrapnel and bullets, and treated cases of shell shock while simultaneously educating student nurses on pediatric care and communicable diseases.

Life Sketch

Following the war, she returned to the United States and continued her leadership as the Supervisor of Ambulatory Care Clinics and Emergency at Gouverneur's Hospital in New York. She retired from the nursing profession in 1995.

The Maria Rose International Doll Museum

In her retirement, Naida transformed a lifelong passion for doll collecting into a mission for peace. Though she lost her original collection of 28 dolls (carried to Nigeria in a "Red Hat Box") during the Civil War, she was inspired by Sister Gabriel Mary to begin again.

On October 5, 2007, she formally opened The Maria Rose International Doll Museum and Cultural Center in St. Albans, NY. The museum was designed to promote ethnic diversity and cross-cultural respect. Naida famously issued "miniature imitation American Passports" to children, encouraging them to "travel" through the museum's exhibits to learn about the world's cultures. Her work was featured on Q.P. TV and exhibited at the Saint Albans Community Library.

Life Sketch

Faith and Community Recognition

A woman of deep spiritual conviction, Naida served for many years as a Eucharistic Minister and Lecturer at St. Bonaventure/St. Benedict The Moor R.C. Church. In her later years, she found a new spiritual home, being baptized at Victory Fellowship Worship Center of SDA on September 21, 2024, and formally received into the First Rosedale Seventh-day Adventist Church on October 19, 2024.

Her community service was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, honoring her "Friendship and Service to the Community."

Family and Legacy

Naida was the beloved wife of the late Dr. John E. Njoku (1930-2013). Together, they celebrated over 50 years of marriage and traveled the world extensively, visiting Canada, Europe, Jamaica, Egypt, Israel, and beyond. She is survived by her son Michael, a cousin Caroline and family, in-laws from the late husband Dr. John E. Njoku and other relatives, and a community that was profoundly touched by her compassion and vision.

The Eulogy

A Life Hidden in Christ

Naida N. Njoku:

December 4, 1933 - April 1, 2026

Beloved brethren, family, and friends, we are gathered here in the sight of Almighty God to remember the life and legacy of His daughter, Naida N. Njoku. In this hour of parting, we come not as those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13), but as those who trust in the Great Life-giver. We look forward to that day when the "corruptible must put on incorruption" and this "mortal must put on immortality" (1 Corinthians 15:53).

Naida lived by the words of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Her path was not always easy, but it was directed. From the clinics of Harlem to the war-torn hospitals of Nigeria, she was a vessel of healing. In 1961, she followed the Spirit across the ocean to join her beloved husband, Dr. John Njoku. For fifty-two years, they walked together, proving that love—divine love—is the cord that connects us all.

The Eulogy

During the Nigerian Civil War, Naida served as an Army Nurse. She saw the frailty of life firsthand, binding up wounds and comforting the "shell-shocked." She understood then what the Psalmist wrote: "His truth shall be thy shield and buckler" (Psalm 91:4). She did not fear the arrow that flieth by day, for she knew her life was secured by a Power greater than any earthly conflict.

When she returned to the United States and eventually founded the Maria Rose International Doll Museum, she showed us that even when things are lost—as her first collection was lost to the flames of war—God can bring beauty from ashes. She was like Tabitha of old, full of good works and almsdeeds (Acts 9:36).

In her final years, Naida's spiritual journey reached a beautiful fruition. On September 21, 2024, she followed her Lord into the waters of baptism, becoming a "new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17) and joining the First Rosedale Seventh-day Adventist Church. She embraced the truth that the Sabbath is a sign of our Creator's love and that death is but a temporary sleep.



The Eulogy



On the Sabbath day of March 14, she suffered a stroke. On Wednesday, April 1, she "fell asleep" in Jesus. The Scriptures tell us plainly in Ecclesiastes 9:5 that "the dead know not any thing." Naida is not watching us in sorrow, nor is she troubled by the cares of this world. She is resting. Her "breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4).

She is now in the safest place possible: the memory of God. She rests beside her husband, John, in the place prepared for her, waiting for the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God. We do not say goodbye; we say, "Rest until the morning."

Naida, thou good and faithful servant: sleep now in the peace of thy Lord.

Thank You



The family of Naida N. Njoku wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to the many relatives, friends, and neighbors for the acts of kindness, prayers, and words of comfort shared during this time of bereavement.

Special thanks to:

Pastor Glenroy Pryce and Our faith families at the First Rosedale Seventh-Day Adventists Church for their support, willing service and unconditional love.

The medical staff at Queens General for their dedicated care.

The staff of J. Foster Phillips Funeral Home Inc. for their facilities and Customer service.

All those who traveled from near and far to be with us today.

Your presence has been a source of strength, reminding us that truly, "Love Connects Us All."

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