



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Obaapanyin (Mrs.)

**Anna Adwoa
Adadzewa de-Heer**

(née Melfah)

A LIFE OF FAITH, STRENGTH & LOVE

101 YEARS OF LIFE

Entered eternal rest · 1 January 2026

A CENTURY OF GRACE

A Life Remembered

Obaapanyin (Mrs.) Anna Adwoa Adadzewa de-Heer (née Melfah) lived a remarkable 101 years. Her life connected Ghana and the United States, carrying forward a legacy of courage, Catholic faith, compassion and devotion to her family.

Born in Saltpond, Ghana, she later settled in New York, where she served others as a healthcare worker for more than two decades. As mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, she nurtured generations with quiet strength.

“Your work is complete. Your legacy endures. Your memory will live in our hearts always.”

Her story lives on through the family she raised, the people she touched and the memories cherished across generations.



HER LIFE & LEGACY

Biography

Today, we gather with heavy hearts, but also with deep gratitude, to celebrate the extraordinary life of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother and matriarch, OBAAPANYIN (MRS.) ANNA ADWOA ADADZEWA de-HEER, who passed away peacefully on January 1, 2026, in Manhattan, New York.

She lived a remarkable 101 years—a full century and more—filled with love, sacrifice, wisdom, and service to family and community. Born in Saltpond, Ghana, to Obaapanyin Mary Efua Kokua Melfah (nee Quansah) of the Royal Antseneyie Anona Ebusua of Kansaworodo in the Western Region of Ghana and Opanyin Kobina Abaka Melfah from Mpesedaadze in the Central Region of Ghana, she came from strong roots and carried that strength throughout her life. As the youngest of thirteen children, and the last surviving member of her siblings, she stood as a living bridge between generations.

In 1982, she immigrated to the United States and made New York her home. She lived a long, purposeful, and impactful life marked by faith, service, resilience, and deep devotion to family. A woman of unwavering faith, mom was a staunch Roman Catholic who attended Mass regularly and lived her life guided by Christian values. She served others selflessly as a healthcare worker for over 20 years, showing compassion, humility, and dedication in her profession.

Her life was a testimony to resilience. She witnessed history, endured hardship, celebrated progress, and remained steadfast in her beliefs and character. Wherever she lived—from Ghana to the United States—she carried dignity, grace, and a deep sense of responsibility for her family. To her children, she was a pillar. To her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she was a source of wisdom, comfort, and quiet authority. To all who knew her, she was a woman of integrity, kindness, and strength.

Mom's love was not loud, but it was powerful. It showed in her prayers, her counsel, her discipline, and her example. She taught us the value of family, respect, perseverance, and faith in God. Her life reminds us that true greatness is not measured in wealth or fame, but in the lives, we touch and the values we pass on. Though we mourn her passing, we also give thanks for the blessing of her long life and the legacy she leaves behind.

She was preceded in death by her children: Anna Quainoo, Kofi, and Charles de-Heer.

She is survived by children: George Benyarko, Antonia Araba Edu-Mensah, Adrian de-Heer, Andrew de-Heer, Nana Asmah de-Heer, Huberta de-Heer, James de-Heer, and Marcella de-Heer Telfer; 22 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchild and generations yet to come who will speak her name with honor.

Today, we do not say goodbye forever. We say, "Rest well, OBAAPANYIN." Your work is complete. Your legacy endures. Your memory will live in our hearts always. May your soul find perfect peace, and may we, your family, continue to walk in the path you have shown us.



WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE

Tribute from the Children

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”
Proverbs 31:29 (NIV)

Mum, these words speak so beautifully of the woman you were to us. When we think of you, we remember a woman of grace, humility and quiet strength. You were a special human being, selfless to the core, hardworking and deeply devoted to your family. You carried yourself with dignity and remained committed to the values you held dear.

Your love for us was steady and practical. We felt it in your prayers, your counsel, your discipline, your sacrifices and your support. You guided and corrected us when needed, and through your example taught us respect, perseverance, responsibility and faith in God.

You also had a generous heart for others. You never turned people away and always tried to see the good in everyone. In your work and in everyday life, you cared for people with compassion and humility. Serving others was simply part of who you were.

To us, you were more than a mother; you were a pillar. As the years passed, you became a source of wisdom, comfort and quiet authority to your grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Your presence helped hold the generations together.

We thank God for the long life we shared with you and for the privilege of calling you Mum. We will always be grateful for the love you gave, the strength you showed and the strong foundation you built for us.

We also remember with love our siblings who went before you — Anna Quainoo, Kofi and Charles de-Heer. Mum, your work is complete, but your influence remains in the lives you shaped and in the values we carry forward.

We do not say goodbye forever. We say, “Rest well, OBAAPANYIN.” May your soul find perfect peace.

Rest in peace, Mum.
Your children

GENERATIONS OF LOVE

Tribute from the Grandchildren

Today, we gather in sorrow, but also with profound gratitude, to honour the extraordinary life of our beloved Maame Adazewah. For 101 years, she was a source of strength, wisdom, sacrifice, and love. Her life was measured not only by its length but by the people she touched, the family she nurtured, and the generations she helped shape.

Although she lived in the United States from 1983, distance never separated her from Ghana or from those she loved.

Maame showed us that greatness is often found in quiet strength. As widow who persevered for her children, a mother who raised eleven children through hardship and a woman who opened her heart to others. Her sacrifices became the foundation upon which her family continued to grow.

Whenever Maame visited, we were all over her, gathered close, she told us stories that made us laugh, she shared her life experiences in Ghana and America with us, advised us, always prayed for us, blessed and wished us well in life. At the time, we may not have realized how special those moments were. Today, we remember those visits with deep gratitude and affection.

The image of Maame, surrounded by her grandchildren, captures the love and closeness she inspired. It is a memory we will carry with us always.

She lived long enough to witness her family grow across four generations. Children becoming parents, parents becoming grandparents and grandchildren becoming parents themselves.

This is more than a family tree. It is a reflection of the life she lived, the sacrifices she made, and the people she helped.

We, her grandchildren, are among the beneficiaries of the foundation Maame created. The values she passed to her children were passed on to us, shaping our understanding of responsibility, perseverance, and care for others.

Among us are professors, bankers, teachers, doctors, IT professionals, nurses, and people working in many different fields. Though we have followed different paths, we remain connected by the family and values Maame helped build.

Her legacy lives in the way we work, care for one another, overcome hardship and guide the next generation. It also lives in the compassion she showed beyond her immediate family, reminding us that love is measured not only by blood but also by the willingness to care.

Maame, although your physical presence is no longer with us, your influence remains. Whenever we uphold your values, care for one another, or gather as a family, a part of you will be present among us.

As we bring this tribute to a close, we say goodbye with tears, but also with profound gratitude.

Thank you for your strength, sacrifices, guidance, and compassion. Thank you for the foundation you created and for the memories we will always cherish.

Maame Adadzewa, you lived for 101 years, but the love you gave and the legacy you built will continue far beyond your lifetime.

With tears in our eyes and love in our hearts, we release you from every burden. Your work is complete. Your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will continue the story you began.

Rest peacefully, Maame.

May your beautiful soul rest in perfect peace.

Damirifa due, Maame Adadzewa

You will forever remain in our hearts, in our family, and in every generation that carries your love forward.

MEMORIES TO TREASURE

Tribute from the Great-Grandchildren

We count ourselves truly blessed to have known our great-grandmother and to have shared in her love. Not everyone has the privilege of knowing a great-grandparent, and for us, that made every moment with her especially precious.

She was a caring and generous woman whose kindness reached far beyond our family. We heard many stories of the lives she touched and of how freely she gave, even when she did not have much herself. The warmth and respect people showed whenever they spoke about her told us how deeply she had affected those around her.

Her visits were always special. They brought excitement, happiness and the simple joy of having her close to us. She had a giving heart, and the gifts she brought were never only about the things themselves; they were another way she showed that she had thought of us and wanted us to feel loved. Even as she grew older and her memory began to change, that loving and giving spirit remained.

What we will remember most is the feeling of being known, remembered and deeply loved by her. Her life brought generations of our family together, and we are grateful that some of us were able to share moments with her that connected the older and younger generations in a very special way.

Our great-grandmother gave us more than presents or happy memories. She gave us an example of kindness, generosity and love for family. Her memory will remain with us in the stories we tell, in the love we share with one another and in the generations that continue after us.

We will miss her dearly, but we will always be grateful that we had the blessing of knowing her and being loved by her.

Rest peacefully, our dear Great-Grandmother.

Your great-grandchildren

WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE

Tribute from the Son-in-Law

Mrs. de-Heer, since you passed away in January, I've found myself thinking about you more than I ever expected. I think back to the first time I met you nearly 40 years ago. I remember looking at you and saying to myself, "If your daughter is even half as good as you, I'm going to be marrying well."

I had no idea then just how true those words would become. Your daughter has been my wife, my best friend, and my partner for 37 wonderful years. And I know that so much of the woman she is today came from you.

I admired your wisdom, your intelligence, and your generosity. You had a way of giving so much of yourself to the people you loved. You taught by example, and whether you realized it or not, you left an impression on everyone fortunate enough to know you.

I wish I could have one more conversation with you. One more chance to hear your voice, share a laugh, or simply sit together and know that you were there. It's the little things that become the biggest things when someone is gone.

I am grateful that our paths crossed 40 years ago. Grateful that you welcomed me into your family. And most of all, grateful that you raised the woman I have been blessed to love for 37 years.

I hope you knew how much you meant to me. You weren't just my mother-in-law—you became a very important part of my life and my family. I will carry your memory with me for the rest of my life, and every time I look at your daughter, I will see a little bit of you.

Thank you for everything, Mrs. de-Heer. I miss you. I love you. And I will never forget you. Until we meet again, may you rest peacefully.

Bernard Telfer

THE FAMILY LEGACY

Four Generations & Beyond

Maame's love brought generations together, building a family rooted in faith, strength and kindness. Across countries and oceans, each name carries her story forward—a beautiful legacy of belonging, care and enduring love.

11 Children

1. Anna Quainoo (Aba Egyama)
2. Kofi
3. George Benyarko (Kodwo Dum)
4. Antonia Araba Edu-Mensah (Araba Kokua)
5. Adrian Nicholas de-Heer (Papa Kofi Adzie)
6. Andrew Nicholas de-Heer (Ekow Anasie)
7. Petrose de-Heer (Nana Kwesi Asmah)
8. Charles de-Heer (Kwesi Charle)
9. Huberta Aba de-Heer (Mena Aba Essuon)
10. James de-Heer (Kwaku Abokyi)
11. Marcella de-Heer Telfer (Adwoa K)koa)

22 Grandchildren

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ariane Awusiwa Yeboah | 12. Mrs Mercy Nicholina Charway. |
| 2. Christopher Benyarko | 13. Mrs Diana Boakye |
| 3. Anthony Benyarko | 14. George de-Heer |
| 4. Nii Adja Torto | 15. Nicholas Ekow Anesi de-Heer |
| 5. Naa Oboshie Torto | 16. Ewuresi Adadzewa de-Heer |
| 6. George Bondzie-Mensah | 17. Goerge Ackon |
| 7. Alfred Kweku Ampah-Mensah | 18. Joseph Rodney Ackon |
| 8. Nicholas Andrew de-heer | 19. Anna Adwoa Adadzewah Ackon |
| 9. Mrs Anna Evelyn Oduro. | 20. Breena Telfer |
| 10. Mrs Adriana Edufey Desmond. | 21. Laura Telfer |
| 11. Mrs Queenila Graffin. | 22. Anna de-Heer |

THE FAMILY LEGACY

Great-Grandchildren

33 Great-Grandchildren

1. Christine Ekuwa Yeboah
2. Tony Torto
3. James Torto
4. Elijah Torto
5. Charles Ribeiro Quainoo
6. Ewuraekua Kokua Ampah-Mensah
7. Kobina Edu Ampah-Mensah
8. Maame Ama Bentsiwa Ampah-Mensah
9. Blessing Adina Edefey Desmond
10. Edem Edefey Desmond
11. Mac-Delvin Edefey Desmond
12. Kennedy Edefey Desmond
13. Awesome Griffin
14. Gatalaya Naa Adjeley charway.
15. Daryl Nii Adjetey Charway
16. Ryan Laryea Charway.
17. Julius Obrempong Boakye (OB)
18. George de-Heer
19. Leola Efua de-Heer
20. Phoebe Ewuradwoa de-Heer
21. Deborah Efua de-Heer
22. Joseph Paa Kwesi de-Heer
23. Immaculate Huberta Ackon
24. Georgina Ackon
25. Anna Efua Adadzewah Ackon
26. George Ackon
27. Shelisha Ewurakua Ackon
28. Grace M Wleh
29. Melchizedek Nana Kwame Ackon
30. Andrew Ribeiro Amponsah
31. Nicholas Bioma
32. Godlove Efua Thompson
33. Jeremiah Fiifi Thompson

2 Great-Great-Grandchildren

1. Leon Kobina-Edu Quainoo
2. Noah Kobina-Ebow Quainoo

CELEBRATING LIFE TOGETHER

Birthdays & Milestones

Each birthday was another opportunity to gather, give thanks and celebrate Maame.



CELEBRATING LIFE TOGETHER

A Century of Love

Smiles, cake and togetherness marked a life surrounded by family and affection.



PORTRAITS & PRECIOUS MOMENTS

Maame Through the Years



PORTRAITS & PRECIOUS MOMENTS

Family Across Generations

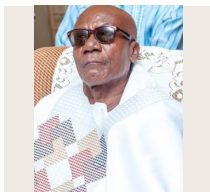
Family portraits arranged in sequence across generations.



Anna Quainoo (Aba Egyama)



Antonia Araba Edu-Mensah (Araba Kokua)



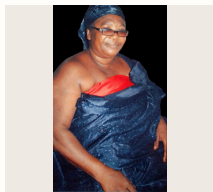
Adrian Nicholas de-Heer (Papa Kofi Adzie)



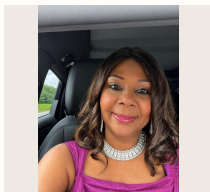
Andrew Nicholas de-Heer (Ekow Anasie)



Petrose de-Heer (Nana Kwesi Asmah)



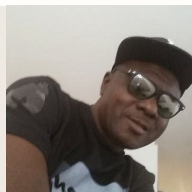
Huberta Aba de-Heer (Mena Aba Essuon)



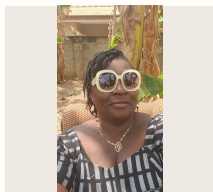
Marcella de-Heer Telfer (Adwoa K)koa



Ariane Awusiwa Yeboah



Nii Adja Torto



Naa Oboshie Torto



Alfred Kweku Ampah-Mensah



Nicholas Andrew de-Heer

PORTRAITS & PRECIOUS MOMENTS

Family Across Generations

Family portraits arranged in sequence across generations.



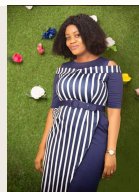
Anna Evelyn de-Heer



Adriana de-Heer



Queenila Araba de-Heer



Mercy Nicholina de-Heer



Diana de-Heer



George de-Heer



**Nicholas Ekow Anesi
de-Heer**



**Ewuresi Adadzewa
de-Heer**



George Ackon



Joseph Rodney Ackon



**Anna Adwoa Adadzewah
Ackon**



Breenna Telfer

PORTRAITS & PRECIOUS MOMENTS

Family Across Generations

Family portraits arranged in sequence across generations.



Laura Telfer



Anna de-Heer



Charles Ribeiro Quainoo

IN HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Appreciation

The family honours all whose kindness, prayers, friendship and support have accompanied them in remembering their beloved matriarch.

Rest peacefully, Maame.

Damirifa due, Maame Adadzewa.

May your beautiful soul rest in perfect peace.

