



Doris Elizabeth Hanna was born on June 8, 1927 in Emporia, Virginia to Edward and Wilmer Robinson. Dr. Robert Howard Hanna “Doc” was born in Coatesville, Pennsylvania on the 600 block of Merchant Street (643), on November 26, 1928, to Owen William Hanna and Mary Elizabeth Carter Hanna.

Doris’s family moved to Baltimore, Maryland where Doris attended the public schools. Doris graduated and had two sons, Glenn and Stevie. Robert grew up in a segregated neighborhood and until high school, attended a segregated school. Robert graduated in 1942 from James Adams School. He then went to Scott High School, which was desegregated, and graduated in 1945. Though he had guidance counselors at Scott High School, he and most of his associates went back to Adams for advice and counseling. The guidance counselors at Scott High School were not encouraging or helpful to Robert. They did not encourage all African Americans to seek professional careers, no matter how intelligent or promising the African-American student was.

Upon Robert’s graduation from Scott, he went to Lincoln University. Robert was interested in growing things. “Doc” combined a lot of biology and chemistry courses and ended up with a double major. While taking these courses he began to develop friendships with pre-med students and his interest in medicine began to develop. Robert worked at Luken’s Steel Company, the VA Hospital, and Goldstein’s Produce during the summer to save money for the upcoming school year. He also received small scholarships from various woman’s groups and churches. With family and community support, “Doc” graduated from Lincoln University when he was twenty years old. Doris decided to attend college to provide a better life for her boys. She enrolled at Coppin State Teachers College and graduated as valedictorian of her class. Doris was highly intelligent and excelled in math and science. She dreamed of going into medicine but was deterred by the expense and the fact that very few women, in particular black women, became doctors then. She went on to have a career teaching math and science.

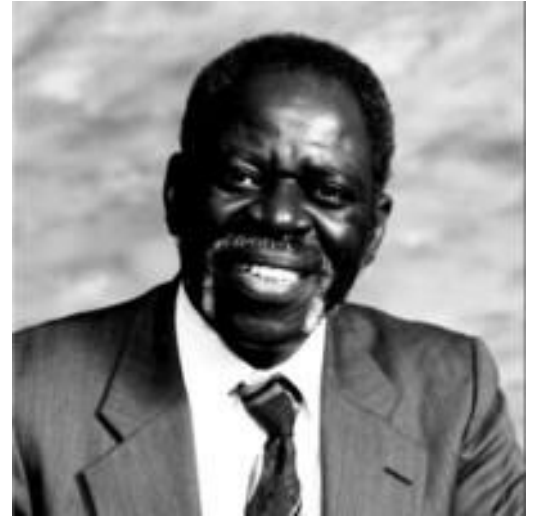
After graduating from Lincoln, Robert enlisted in the United States Army in 1951. He was permanently stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Base, in Maryland. He was the first African American Eagle Scout in Chester County (October 8, 1944). While in the Army, Robert met his beautiful wife Doris at a USO function. They married in 1957.

After leaving the Army in 1954 Robert Enrolled at Howard University as a medical student. After Robert graduated in 1958, he and Doris moved back to Robert’s hometown in Chester County to do his internship and residency in family practice at Chester County Hospital. Doris taught at the local school. “Doc’s” first office was at their house on W. Bernard Street. It was there he began to practice medicine. Eventually his office moved to 144 W. Bernard Street. Robert was the first African American to practice medicine in West Chester, PA. His first office was at their house on West Bernard Street. They built a house in Coatesville, PA, one of the first houses on the farmland of Prout Drive and moved there in 1968. That house was the cherished and warm center of family gatherings for more than five decades.

Doris was a wonderful cook and prepared the celebrated Robinson potato salad and chili. Every summer until COVID appeared Doris and Bob hosted a Fourth of July barbecue at their home where family and friends gathered. Everyone was welcome. On Christmas, they hosted the Hanna Family holiday gathering. Bob made eggnog. Doris made sure that every person had a gift.

Every summer, grandchildren, nephews, and nieces stayed at Doris and Bob's house. Doris showed infinite patience in dealing with tribes of children for weeks. She served them three meals a day. Bob grew radishes, lettuce, and greens. He never begrudged the rabbits their share and there were fresh vegetables for dinner. Doris made jelly and preserves from the pear and apple trees on their property.

Doris and Bob belonged to neighborhood organizations that held charity events and dances. Doris joined Epsilon Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in 1991. She became an active member serving on different committees, notably the Storks Nest Committee that operated a nest at The Atkinson Center in Coatesville. She was the treasurer of EOZ from 1994-2016. Doris was also a member of the Society Inc, Delaware Valley PA Chapter and she was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, 98th District. Doris was a charter member of Foxy After Fifty Red Hat Chapter and the National Red Hat Society. Doris was on many boards, including the Atkinson Center Board. As a Math in the Coatesville Area for many years, she was a member of the local (CATA), State (PSEA) and national (NEA) teachers' associations. The NAACP was also a group she worked with. Doris taught generations of students at Gordon Middle School in Coatesville.



Robert was a member of the Second Presbyterian Church of West Chester for over fifty years. He served several terms as ruling elder and sang in the choir. Doc was a fruit of the African American community that was committed to each member of his community. Dr. Hanna served on the staff of Memorial Hospital, Chester County Hospital, and the Embreeville State Hospital. Additionally, he served on the staff of the Pocopson Nursing Home, Brandywine Hall Nursing Home, and the West Chester Arms Nursing Home. Dr. Hanna is a member of many professional organizations, including the Chester County Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Lincoln University, West Chester Community Center, the Greater Brandywine Branch of the American Red Cross and the Planned Parenthood of Chester County. He has been President of the Thursday Retirees Club, Past President of the West Goshen Lions Club and the Past Master of Harmony Lodge #21 of Prince Hall Masonic. He served on the Human Relations Council in West Chester, NAACP, and he was an original member of the Neighbors Club of Chester County. Dr. Hanna was a Co-founder of the West Chester Area Day Care Center in 1968. Dr. Hanna was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated Sigma Mu Lambda Chapter. Dr. Hanna was also a Diamond State Bridge Club member and a Chester County Hospital Alumni. Along with being the Board President of the Friends Association for the care and protection of children, he was also on the Allocation Committee of the United Way of Chester County.

Doris was the soul of kindness. She was a gentle person. She was never heard to say a disparaging word about anyone. She strove to see the good in people. Doris and Bob helped many people.

The unit of two, of Bob and Doris, is no more. They lived a good life traveling all over the world including most of the United States and many foreign countries including, Egypt, China, South Africa to name a few. She loved cooking using the spices she collected from around the world. They also took the maiden voyage on the QE 2 from Liverpool to New York City.

Doris died on September 22, 2022 with Bob holding her hand. Robert took his last breath, in his home surrounded by family on January 27, 2024.