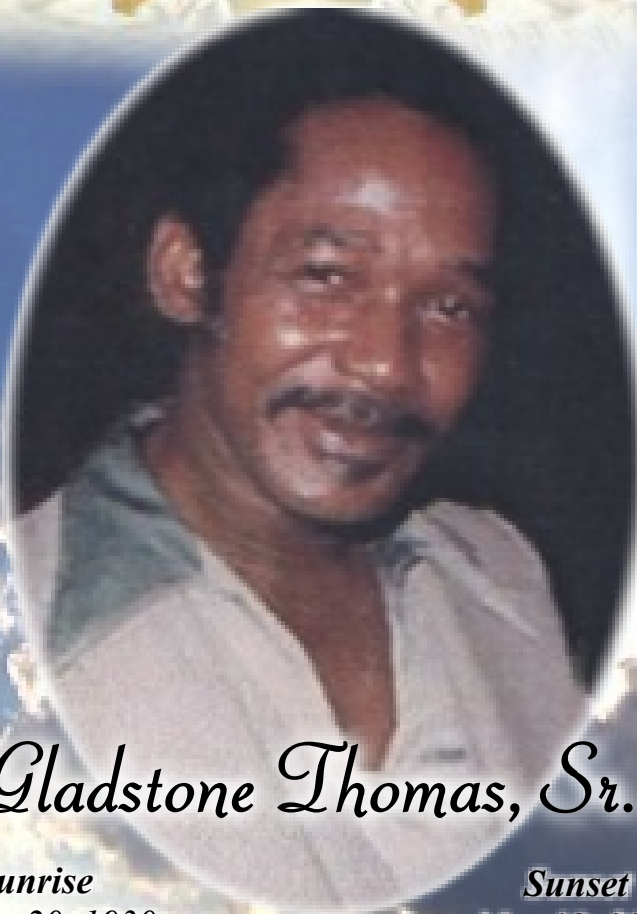


Funeral Service for



Gladstone Thomas, Sr.

Sunrise

August 20, 1930

Sunset

May 18, 2012

Service

Friday, June 1, 2012 - 9:30 a.m.

AGAPE CHURCH OF GOD

138-35 Springfield Blvd. • Springfield Gardens, New York

Bishop Garvin Graham, Officiating

Obituary

On August 20, 1930 Maria Francis and David Thomas welcomed their third son into their lives. **Gladstone Thomas** as he was named was destined to make his mark on the world.

He attended St. Francis Primary School in the parish of Kingston where he was born. He did not go on to pursue higher learning as he was qualified to do but instead from an early age chose to demonstrate his business acumen. It was in this vein, along with his brother George, they engaged in a mattress making business. They were early suppliers of these items to Up-Park-Camp, one of the early training grounds and residences of soldiers and officers in Jamaica. "Mr. Jimmy" as he was called by many, married his first wife, Joyce Hines whom he affectionately called "Sweets". This union produced nine children.

He then ventured into entrepreneurship which included opening his own grocery establishment, became a purveyor of children's toys among other ventures. Some of these ventures were successful while others failed. He was employed at Nassralla Furniture Store in Kingston as a salesman where he was a very valued employee. Not only was he a treasured employee, he became a personal friend of the Nassralla family. As a salesman he was known to be a smooth taker, suave and debonair, able to sell anything.

As successful as he was as a salesman it was in the area of politics that he really shined. When Kingston was hit hard by a hurricane in 1951, he became one of the main "go to" persons for government aid. Many who had houses destroyed would seek him out for help in obtaining government housing. He also at one time was President of the Pioneer Group of the People Nation Party, P.N.P. In this capacity he did extensive work at the



The Chain Will Link Again

*Little did we know that morning,
God was going to call your name.*

*In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,
you did not go alone.*

*For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.*

*You left us beautiful memories,
your love is still our guide.*

*And although we cannot see you,
you are always by our side.*

*Our family chain is broken,
and nothing seems the same.*

*But as God calls us one by one,
the chain will link again.*

-Author unknown

To Those I Love

*To those I love and those that love me,
When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears
Be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness
I thank you for the love you each have shown
But now it's time I travel alone
So grieve for a while for me if you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart
I won't be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come
Though you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near
And if you listen with your heart you'll hear
All my love around you so soft and clear
And then, when you must come this way alone
I'll greet you with a smile and say,
"Welcome Home."*

-Author unknown

Pall Bearers

Richard Robinson Sr.
Paul Thomas
Vernon Thame
Kirk Thomas

Marco Robinson
Richard Robinson Jr.
Gladstone Thomas, Jr.
David Thomas

Acknowledgements

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!*

Professional Services Provided By:

Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*

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grass roots level. He was not only well known and respected at the local level but also in the upper echelons of the P.N.P. he became a confidant. He established a rapport with leaders like Frank Spaulding, Ralph Brown, the Manley family and also Anthony Spaulding. Many are the families in places like Slipe Road, Allman Town, Jones Town and Franklin Town who were able to support themselves because of the work they were able to obtain through his efforts and various government work initiatives. These included road building and repairs, painting of schools and government offices, trench and gully cleaning. He gathered such an impressive reputation that at one time he was being touted to replace Ralph Brown who was being considered for higher office.

He left Jamaica for the United States and again worked for a while in the furniture sales industry. It was there that after divorcing his first wife he met and married his second wife Lynne Hayes-Thomas, this union produced two children, Theo and Anthony. The family lived in various places, finally settling in Putnam, Connecticut in 1984. While living in Connecticut he suffered an aneurysm. This life threatening event might have floored a lesser man but by the grace of God, expert medical care and the devotion of his wife he survived, truth be told God was not ready for him as yet. However, not long after he and Lynne divorced. After a brief sojourn in Canada he moved to Florida where he lived and became a known fixture in his community. Out of love and respect many came to know him as Pops or Papa.

In Florida he met and married his third wife Sandra Thomas to whom he was still married when unfortunately he suffered a stroke. She cared for him as best as she possibly could until it became too hard for her and he was brought back to New York to complete his circle of life.

When we are born into this world none of us are able to predict our lives path or what might befall us along the way, James was no exception. God knew what he needed and how things were going to be. He gave him parents who brought him up in the Catholic Church and gave him a foundation. He gave him brothers and a sister who loved him and gave him an early sense of family. He gave him wives who inspite of his failings and flaws still stood by him through thick and thin. He blessed him with children who because of the foundation that was set were able to love, forgive, understand and care for the man they call Papa.

Those who feel the loss of this good man include, children, Junior, Paul, Paula, Marcia, Deanne, Rosemarie, Roselee, David, Dorette, Bobby, Michael, Karen, Theo and Anthony; step son, Vernon; grandchildren and great grandchildren who will miss his presence too numerous to mention are his nephews and nieces, grand nephews and grand nieces. To cherish his memory also are his sister, Dorothy Foo, his two brothers, George and Edgar.

May His Soul Rest In Peace.



Order of Service

Opening Prelude Organist, Ruby Ricketts
Opening Hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #121
Opening Prayer Rev. Lascelles Edwards
Scripture - Romans 5:1-11 Dominique Robinson
Scripture - St. John 11:25 & 26 Gabrielle Glashen
Hymn “What A Friend We Have In Jesus” #346
Tribute Dorothy Foo, Sandra Thomas, Lynne Hayes-Thomas
Eulogy Gladstone Thomas
Prayer of Comfort Rev. Garvin Graham
Musical Tribute Matthew Ogle
Message Rev. Lascelles Edwards
Closing Prayer Rev. Lascelles Edwards
Viewing

Interment

Pinelawn Memorial Park
Farmingdale, New York

The Master Called

*I'm sorry I had to leave you.
My loved ones, oh so dear.
But you see, the Master called me,
His voice was very clear!
I had made my reservation
A heaven bound ticket for one,
And I knew that He would call me
When He felt my work was done.
I know that your hearts are heavy
Because I have gone away,
But when the Master called me,
I knew that I could not stay.
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you
My loved ones, oh so dear,
But, you see, the Master called me
And, now I'm resting here.
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory
And to you all I say
Just stay in the hands of Jesus
And we'll meet again someday.*

-Author unknown

