

Celebration of Life for



*Thomas E. Oliver*

**Sunrise**  
July 6, 1922

**Sunset**  
April 5, 2013

*Service*

Friday, April 12, 2013 - 12:00 p.m.

**First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

326 Ellison Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501

Reverend Dr. Douglas L. Maven, Pastor

## *Reflections of Life*

**Thomas E. Oliver** was born on July 7, 1922 to the late Lillian V. and George Oliver, Sr. in Paterson, NJ.

Thomas attended the Paterson Public School system. He pursued his higher education at Paterson State College on an athletic scholarship and Fordham University. Thomas graduated from West Virginia State, where he met his wife Mary Harris. They wed in 1952 and became the parents of two children, Wanda and Craig.

Thomas served his country in the United States Army and was recognized for his bravery in the Battle of the Bulge as a Combat Infantryman. Thomas was honorably discharged after becoming Staff Sergeant and receiving five Bronze Stars. He also received the NJ Distinguished Service Medal which is NJ's Highest Medal of Honor.

After serving his country and completing his education, Thomas began working for the Passaic County Sheriff's Department. He became the first African American Law Enforcement Officer to obtain the rank of Captain until his retirement in 1985.

Thomas was an avid fisherman and sports devotee. He was an active member of the NAACP, Mason Integrity Lodge No. 51 F&M, (P.H.A.), and O.E.S. No. 16 (P.H.A.).

Thomas was devoted to First A.M.E. Zion Church where was baptized at the age of thirteen and remained an active member for over seventy years. He participated on the Lay Council, Steward Board and Kitchen Cabinet Ministries at the church.

Thomas was predeceased by his wife, Mary Louise (Harris) Oliver.

Thomas E. Oliver departed this life on Friday, April 5, 2013.

He is survived by: his daughter, Wanda; son, Craig; granddaughter, Alessandra "Joi"; special niece, Lillian Cook; special nephews, Lauren Oliver and Ronald Brown; godchildren, Penny Copeland and Martha Copeland, many cousins; devoted friend, Ann Veal and countless other relatives, church family and friends.

# Order of Service

Processional .....Clergy & Family

Invocation..... Minister

Congregational Hymn .....#501 "Amazing Grace"

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament - Psalms 1:1-6

New Testament - I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort .....Minister

Choral Response .....#218 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Choral Selection

Reflections .....Brother James McFadden

Choral Selection

Acknowledgements .....Brother Vincent Smith

Reading of the Obituary

Choral Selection

The Eulogy .....Rev. Dr. Douglas L. Maven

Recessional .....#662 "What a Fellowship"

## Interment

Cedar Lawn Cemetery  
Paterson, New Jersey

## *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



### *Acknowledgement*

*The family of the late **Thomas E. Oliver** 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!*

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