

*A Celebration of Life for*



*Charlene Thomas*

*Sunrise*  
December 1, 1958

*Sunset*  
June 20, 2013

Service  
Friday, June 28, 2013 - 12:00 Noon

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY

*Rev. Tory Liferidge, Officiating*

*Bobby Arrington, Organist*

## Obituary

**Charlene Thomas** affectionately known as “Charl” to her family and friends was born on December 1, 1958 to Leon and Ruth Thomas in New York City. On June 20th, 2013 she made the transition as she was called Home by God. She was fifty-four years young.

Upon receiving her adolescent public school education, Charlene finished her high school education at Job Corp and thereafter went on to attend Lehman College in the Bronx, New York where she graduated earning her Degree in 1986. It was at Lehman where she became a basketball star. She was always a phenomenal basketball player, dominating the other women players and even holding her own against grown men when she was just a teenager earning accolades, trophies and awards. However, her true impact was when she got to college. At school she was known simply as “The Great Charlene Thomas!”

Up until the past few years, “The Great Charlene Thomas” held every Lehman College Women Basketball Record at the school...everyone! She held the record for scoring, assists, rebounding, block shots, steals and this is over a thirty year period since she played. If there was a Professional Women Basketball League such as the WNBA during her playing career, anyone who seen her play would tell you, she would have been playing in it. There is a plaque of her accomplishments displayed at the school and one day there will be a jersey with her name hanging from the rafters of the Apex Lehman College Athletic Center. The Great Charlene Thomas!

Charlene loved working and was employed by the City of New York and the Agency aptly named the Human Resources Administration (HRA) in Brooklyn, New York for seventeen years. She started out as a Case Worker and worked her way up to being Manager as she worked in different departments initially. She was a diligent employee who loved her co-workers, always speaking fondly of them. She disliked not being able to go to work so much that she questioned why the City of New York gave days off for Holidays!

Being the last child conceived out of seven siblings, she was fondly known as the baby of the Thomas Clan. She was truly adored by her older brothers and sisters alike. Possessed with a wonderful personality, a beautiful smile and humorous wit, she was always a joy to be around. Charlene was always the life of the party as she hosted most of them for her family and friends. She also had an affinity for playing cards, particularly Bid Wiz and Spades. If you were not good, you didn’t want to play with her, because she was good and she would tell you if you were not! The Great Charlene Thomas!

Charlene leaves the following to cherish her indelible memory: her mother, Ruth Thomas; father, Leon Thomas (preceded in death); god daughter, Janelle Gunn; her three sisters, Ray Daniels, Ruth “Dee-Dee” Harraway-Dean, Margie Dechabert; her three brothers, Nurridin Sharrief, Raymond and Billy Thomas; her nieces, Brenda, Connie, Aishah, Odetta, Ta-Tanisha, Saudia, Nadiyah, Lakeisha, Felicia, Erica and Star; her nephews, Alexander, Raymond, Tarik, Saladin, Omar, Sye, Ricky and Golden along with her grand nieces, grand nephews; and a host of other family and friends.

*The family would like to make a special acknowledgement to Stephanie and Michelle, simply put you both were her sister and the family could attest to that! To Valerie Gunn and Sandra Roe (You both played a prominent role in Charlene’s life with your love and friendship) she treasured you both....immensely!*

# *Order of Service*

**Processional**

**Selection**

**Scripture Readings**

**Prayer**

**Selection**

**Acknowledgements**

**Remarks**

**Obituary**

Sye Dean

**Selection**

**Eulogy**

Rev. Tory Liferidge

**Committal**

**Viewing**

**Recessional**

**Interment**

Rosehill Cemetery

Linden, New Jersey

# *Family Poem dedicated to Charlene*

*Although the wonderful times we shared have come to an end,  
We know you are at peace and we will see you again...*

*So fly high with the Angels and please bring your smile,  
God is waiting to embrace His beautiful child...*

*We will hurt but in time the pain will subside,  
There will be stains of tears on our face from where we have cried...  
The thought of losing you will never go away,  
We will cherish your memory each and everyday...*

*So Charlene don't worry about us we are happy you are free,  
Just make sure you keep smiling down on us so it is your face we see...*

*Just keep preparing the big party for us all until we are called  
home that you loved to do so much  
You meant the world to us, so until then don't forget to stay in touch*

*We Love You Charl...*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of  
kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.  
God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

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*"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"*

