

# Celebrating The Life of

*Sunrise*  
April 2, 1931

*Sunset*  
July 24, 2013

*Harry Thompson, Jr.*

*Tuesday, July 30, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.*

**FOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

116 Glenside Avenue • Summit, NJ 07901

**Reverend J. Michael Sanders, Senior Pastor**

***Reverend Dr. Evans Spagner, Officiating***

# Remembering Harry

**Harry Thompson Jr.** was born on April 2, 1931 in Elizabeth, New Jersey to the late Harry Nathaniel and Fannie (Jackson) Thompson. Upon Fannie's passing, when Harry was only 5 years old, his father married Grace Raddell, who raised Harry Jr. along with his late brother and sister, Pettis E. Thompson and Evelyn Love, as her own. He attended primary and middle school in Elizabeth before moving to Roselle in the 9th grade. Harry graduated from Abraham Clark High School in the class of 1950 and was offered an athletic scholarship to Columbia University. During his high school years, he excelled in football, basketball, baseball and was named class athlete. It was also at Abraham Clark that Harry met the love of his life, Almeda A. Parsons.

Harry joined the United States Marine Corps in September 1950 and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Two years later, he married Almeda on July 11, 1952 at the base chapel. He served temporarily as a Staff Sergeant and was Honorably Discharged as a Private in September 1953.

Harry knew Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at an early age, being baptized at Mount Teman AME Church in Elizabeth, NJ. Though raised AME, Harry worshipped at Second Baptist Church in Roselle, NJ, where he and Almeda attended for many years before becoming members of Fountain Baptist Church, Summit, NJ under Pastor J. Michael Sanders in May of 2003.

Harry's career was in petroleum. He started with Standard Oil in New York City. His children have fond memories of Harry walking to Rockefeller Center and waving to them on TV at the Today Show window. Standard Oil became Esso, and eventually Exxon Company, USA. Harry also had a brief career at Hess Oil Company. Harry rose from a Clerk at Standard Oil to a Senior Sales Manager for Exxon's Northeast District. He retired in 1990 after 33 years of service. Harry continued as a consultant for seven years to Well Oil Company in Perth Amboy, NJ before accepting a position with the Borough of Roselle. There, he served as the Coordinator for the Neighborhood Preservation Program and also as an assistant to the Borough Business Administrator.

Harry's love for Roselle was evident through the many organizations in which he served, which include St. Joseph's Baseball, Pop Warner Football, Abraham Clark Booster Club, Roselle Planning Board, Linden/Roselle Wastewater Management Authority, Roselle Auxiliary Police, Coordinator of Federal & State Aid, Affirmative Action Officer, and the Board of Directors of the Senior Citizens Housing Authority, while he resided in Roselle. Harry was also involved in the local chapter of the Marine Corps League and once served as Paymaster. He and Almeda also received the Roselle Good Neighbor award in March 1990.

Harry was an avid sports fan, held NY Giants season tickets for over 40 years and traveled to watch his beloved team play in two Super Bowls.

Harry's love of family filled his life. Through their union of 61 years, he and Almeda were blessed with three children: Nancy Lorraine Thompson-Brown (Julian), David Warrington Thompson (Adriene), and Cathy Ann Thompson-Fix; four grandchildren: Royce, Corinne, Kimberly and Joshua, who lovingly called him "PaPa", and great-grandchildren.

Harry also leaves to cherish his memory, sisters-in-law: Elsie H. Cox, Joyce Marie Parsons, Mary Patricia Parsons, Elaine Pastras (Phillip); niece, Pamela Johansen; godson, Michael McLeod; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Harry's legacy of love, kindness, honesty, and truth will live on through the lives of all who knew him.

~ Lovingly submitted, *The Family* ~

# Order of Service

- The Musical Prelude ..... Brandon Flanders
- Call to Worship: *Psalm 150* ..... Rev. Gregory Davis
- Opening Hymn ..... “Oh I Want To See Him” (*verses 1-3*) Page 240
- Prayer of Invocation ..... Rev. Vernon Williams
- Choral Response ..... “He’s Sweet I Know”
- Reading of Scripture ..... Rev. Dr. Frank Walters  
The Old Testament: *Psalm 128*  
The New Testament: *2 Timothy 4:6-8*
- Musical Selection ..... “Jesus Your Name”
- The Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Kenneth Jones
- Solo ..... “I’d Rather Have Jesus” ..... Jane Befumo
- Personal Reflections (*2 minutes each*) ..... Mr. William Roberts  
Mr. Arthur Johnson
- Acknowledgements and Condolences
- Obituary
- Words of Comfort and Eulogy ..... Rev. Dr. Evans Spagner
- Closing Prayer
- The Recessional ..... “Higher Ground” Page 222

## INTERMENT

Graceland Memorial Park • Kenilworth, New Jersey

*Services Entrusted To:*

**G.G. Woody Funeral Home, LLC**

206 East Eighth Avenue • Roselle, NJ 07203

[www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com](http://www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com)

*“Where Our Sympathy Expresses Itself Through Sincere Service”*

## *Pall Bearers*

Family & Friends of Harry Thompson, Jr.

## *Honorary Pall Bearers*

- Samuel Morrison
- Jerry Barner
- Arthur Johnson
- Brian Pattyson
- William Roberts
- Joseph Richter

*Letter from  
Meda*



Dear Harry,  
I didn't tell you how much fun it's been knowing & loving you. In the years I've known you, you've always been kind and considerate of everyone and liked by all. I want to wish you all the luck, success and happiness humanly possible because I know you deserve every bit of it.  
In the future years I know forgetting you will be impossible for you're not just a parting classmate, but someone whom I hold dear to my heart. You were always so patient & understanding, even when I was such a cry baby at our last Christmas program, remember? I hope that graduating will only bring us closer together and no matter where you go, it'll never change.  
Love,  
Meda

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family of Harry Thompson, Jr. acknowledges with sincere appreciation every thought and act kindness expressed to us during this our hour of bereavement. We will always keep you in our prayers. May God continue to richly bless you.*

