

*In Loving  
Memory  
of*



*Robert E. Thompson*

*Sunrise  
May 25, 1937*

*Sunset  
March 10, 2014*

*Saturday, March 14, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.*

*St. Luke AME Church*

*146 Clinton Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07108*

*Pastor James E. Deas, Sr., Officiating*

## *Reflections of Life*

**Robert E. Thompson**, was born in Abbeville, Alabama on May 25, 1937. After a lengthy illness, the Lord called him to rest on March 10, 2014. He was the beloved son of the late Edward and Rosie Thompson. In 1947, the family moved to Newark, New Jersey.

Robert was educated in the Newark Public School's System, where he attended Barringer High School. On October 18, 1959, Robert married Vaboree Hudson together they shared fifty four years and four months of marital bliss. During this time Robert worked many years for Fedders Corporation and Arts Metal as a Die Setter. He was a talented athlete and a self-motivated scholar. In the area of athletics baseball was his passion. He held the position of first basemen for the Newark Braves, a semi-pro league. "*Ask dad*" was the catch phrase of our time. Whenever there was something we needed to know, we turned to him. His love of the gospel, books, nature shows, good conversation, the arts and soulful jazz made him the person that he was.

His calm, charismatic nature made him not only easy to trust but a joy to be with. Although he had only one son and three daughters, dad influenced many of our friends. We sometimes got jealous that so many of them not only loved him but fought for his time and affection and even called him dad. His many fine attributes extended well outside the walls of our home. He was the true example of the African Proverbs, "*It takes a village, to raise a child.*" He taught us what it meant to keep hanging in there, even when it's not easy. We were taught what it meant to be proud of our families, rich heritage and what we stand for. He never passed judgment on anyone, no matter who you were. He was a true man of God. Well respected, loved and admired for his wisdom.

Robert was full of vibrant life and cheerful conversation. He enjoyed friendships which span decades across time. His partners and friends referred to him as "Robert Ed" or "Bobby", but mom called him "Big Bob". The love he had for mom was what fairytales are made of. His mission in life was to leave a legacy of strength, love and laughter. He was the type of man who you could set your watch by. When dad said he was going to do something, trust and believe it will be done.

Robert was a member of St. Luke AME Church. His love for God gave him comfort in His house and observing God's great wonders within the world. During his membership Robert served as a Steward and a Class Leader for many years. He took proud in the beautification of the church and its grounds. He was also known as the sound man of St. Luke, because he took great joy in making sure the quality of the music and the word of God was heard with clarity.

He departed this Earth on March 10, 2014.

Robert and Vaboree were devoted parents of four loving children, Sheila R. Thompson, Kelvin E. Thompson, daughter-in-law, Adelaide S. Thompson, Denise Thomas, son-in-law, Gary L. Thomas and Stacey T. Jackson, son-in-law, Mike Jackson.

He leaves behind one sister, Ada Calaway. Siblings preceding him in death were Monie J. Thompson, Velma Wilson, and Cora Johnson. In-laws Dorain Elliott, Tommie and Pattie Tellis, Carl and Mary Payne, David and Terris Harper. In-laws who preceded him: Hosea, Charles, Dink, and Rebecca. He also had twelve grandchildren: Aja, Tyress, Brachner, Quinton, Sheldon, Barachel, Mike Jr., Chanel, Tre', Beaira, Jasmine and the late Tyron. Robert was also blessed to enjoy time with his seven great-grandchildren as well: Dizay, Yazid, Tanaya, Camora, Zyair, the late Ayana, and the soon to be born his next great-grandson. Also mourning his departure are his best friends of many years, Howard McQueen and Richard Bradman, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

# *Order of Service*

Rev. Dr. James E. Deas, Sr., Presiding

Organ Prelude .....	Rev. Brunard Brascomb
Processional .....	Clergy and Family
Hymn of Assurance .....	“Blessed Assurance”
Prayer of Comfort .....	Rev. John G. Ragen
Scripture Lessons	
Old Testament .....	Psalm 90 2:10
New Testament .....	John 14:1-6
Selection (Solo) .....	Sister Toya T. Wiley
Acknowledgment/Resolutions .....	Sister Mildred Murphy
Special Words of Comfort .....	Brother Tommie T. Tellis Brother Kelvin E. Thompson Sister Sheila R. Thompson
Obituary .....	(Read Silently)
Selection (Solo) .....	Sister Clara Ross, “Order My Steps”
Eulogy .....	Pastor James E. Deas, Sr.
Prayer of Consolation .....	Rev. John G. Regan
Recessional .....	Bob Marley, “Three Little Birds”

## **Interment**

Evergreen Cemetery  
North Broad Street  
Hillside, New Jersey, 07205

## **Repast**

*Friends are invited to join the family for repast at  
St. Luke AME Church 146 Clinton Ave., Newark, New Jersey 07114*



## *Pop-pop's Garden*

My grandfather kept a garden  
A garden of the heart;  
He planted all the good things,  
that gave our lives a jump start  
He exposed us to the sunlight  
And encouraged us to dream  
Fostering and nurturing  
our seeds of self-esteem

As the wind and rain came in strong

He protected us with his love,  
but not too much, because he knew we  
would stand up tough and strong.

He was a constant good example, always  
teaching us right from wrong Paving our  
pathway, that will last a lifetime long

We are our Pop-pop's Garden  
We are his legacy

Thank you, now my angel;  
we'll love you for eternity

Your Grandchildren

### *Acknowledgement*

The family wishes to express their heart-felt gratitude and love to everyone who has displayed support with kind words of encouragement and deeds of love, during our hour of bereavement.

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

