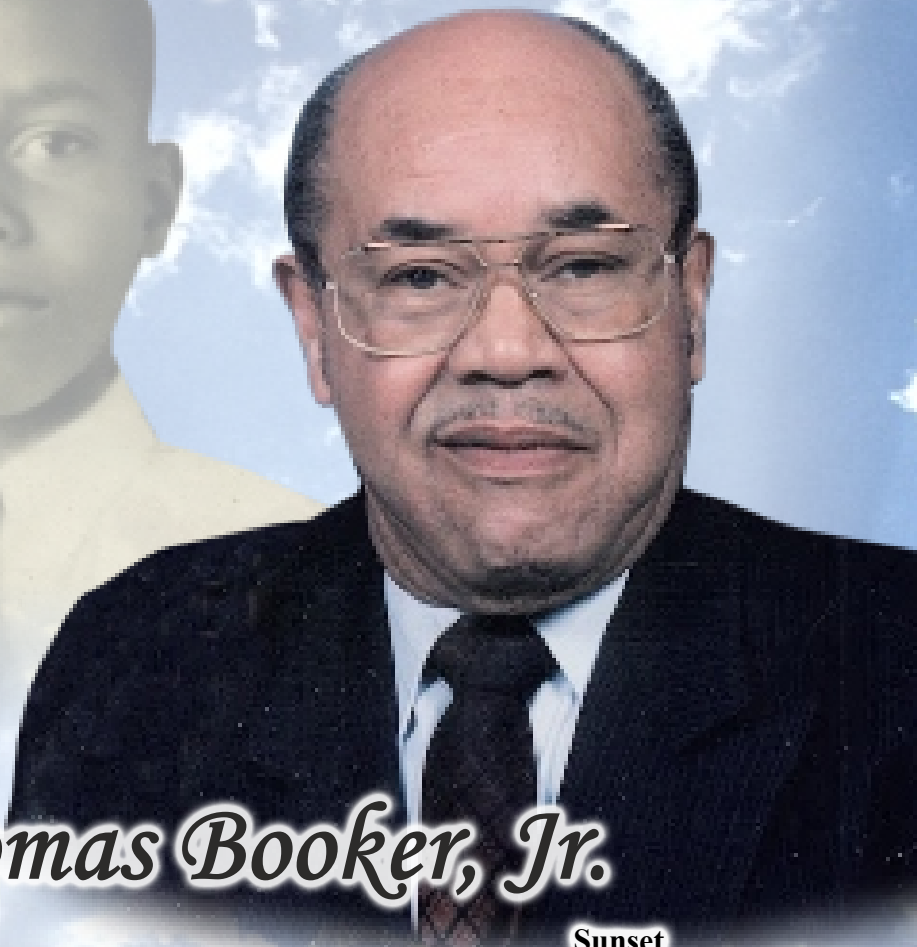


Celebration of Life

for



Thomas Booker, Jr.

Sunrise
November 27, 1928

Sunset
October 23, 2015

Saturday, October 31, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
31 Conger Street • Bloomfield, New Jersey

Rev. Michael Robinson, Pastor

Obituary



Thomas Booker Jr., a resident of Montclair, New Jersey for more than eighty years, passed away on October 23, 2015, at Canterbury Nursing Home in Cedar Grove. He was born in Bloomfield, New Jersey, November 27, 1928, the second child of Thomas Booker Sr. and Mary Reese Booker.

Thomas was educated in the Montclair school system. After leaving school, he joined the U.S. army, serving in the Philippine Islands, earning a World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged in 1947, and under the G.I. Bill of Rights, attended tailoring school. Although he never used this skill professionally, he did all of the sewing and mending at home to the delight of his wife.



After his service career, Thomas was employed by General Electric. A hardworking and enterprising employee, he developed a technique for improving one of their products which the company adopted, earning him great recognition and a monetary reward. Thomas was also employed by Walter Kidde Co. for more than 20 years. There he also distinguished himself by earning the position of shift foreman. After Walter Kidde he was employed for 17 years by Montclair State College in the heating and air conditioning department, retiring in 1993.



Thomas was a dedicated family man. He was married in 1954 to Ethel Mayo. Their union was blessed with a son, Thomas III, their only child, whom God saw fit to call home on March 26, 2013. For Thomas, the father, who adored his son, this was a devastating blow which he never fully accepted. But now he is at peace, at last, reunited with his beloved child.

Thomas was a Christian man. Baptized at the age of 12 in Union Baptist Church, he was a lifelong member, with the exception of 26 years spent at St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair. He was a dedicated member of both churches, serving faithfully in the choirs, and at Union, on the Trustee Board. He also helped to organize a men's chorus at Union. Thomas was also a great soloist. His soul stirring rendition of "How Great Thou Art" was most memorable. His passion for gospel music was lifelong. He especially enjoyed the post war quartet era with such groups as The Five Blind Boys and The Soul Stirrers; he never missed a quartet concert.



Thomas had a kind and gentle nature. Even during his lengthy illness, he never complained, and was always cooperative and appreciative of the care he was given by his wife and his other caregivers. He will be sorely missed.



Thomas was predeceased by his parents, his son, and his brother, James Goodman. He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Ethel Mayo Booker, his loving sister, Naomi Booker Brandon, step sister, Dolores Taylor and husband, Robert, sisters-in-law, Virginia Mayo LaSure, Beverly Williams Muhammad, Shirley Mayo Philippeaux, Astrid Mayo, and Barbara Goodman Warfield, brothers-in-law, Abdul Qawiyy Muhammad (aka Randolph Mayo), Dr. Raymond LaSure, Henry Philippeaux, and Michael and David Mayo, God sons, Randal Wood and Ross Mitchell, and a number of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Order of Service

Processional

Invocation

Opening Hymn..... “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 90:10 & Psalm 23:1-6..... Rhonda Robinson

New Testament - I Thessalonians 4:13-18..... Yolanda Brandon

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection..... Men’s Chorus

Acknowledgements & Resolutions

Clergy Remarks (2 minutes)

“How Great Thou Art” Theresa Thomas

Family Reflections.....Alonzo Brandon, Jr.
Randal Wood

Obituary.....Roslyn Terry

Selection.....“Precious Lord”

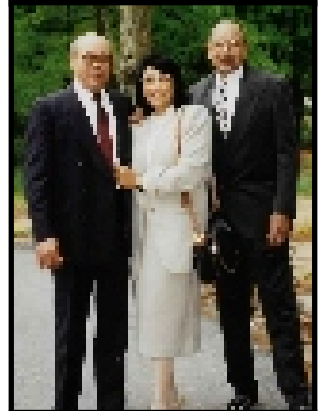
Eulogy..... Pastor Michael Robinson

Recessional..... “I’ll Fly Away”

INTERMENT
Rosedale Cemetery
Orange, New Jersey

Pallbearers

Justin Plaza	Ross Mitchell
Kevin Brandon	Daryl Brandon
Roger Scott Perry	Alonzo Brandon III



God's Garden

God saw him getting tired,
When a cure was not to be,
He clasped His hands around him,
And whispered, "Come to me."
He didn't deserve what he went through
And so He gave him rest;
God's garden must be beautiful,
For He only takes the best.

A peace in God's beautiful garden,
Away from sorrow and pain,
Someday when life's journey has ended,
We'll all be together again.

God was watching from above,
And knew he had his share,
He gently closed his weary eyes
And took him in His care.

The golden gates stand open,
He knew he needed rest,
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.

- Author Unknown

Acknowledgement

The Family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation
the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness
shown them during the passing of their loved one.
May God bless each and every one of you.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

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