



*Celebrating the Life
Of*

Leonard D. Thomas

Sunrise: March 31, 1954 - Sunset: February 11, 2017

Service:

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 - 12:00 Noon

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey 07050

Pastor Trevor Edwards, Officiating

Obituary

Leonard Delroy Thomas was born on March 31st, 1954, in Kingston Jamaica, to Olga and the late Ewan Thomas. Leonard was the second born of seven children, which included five boys and two girls. Leonard and his six siblings grew up in Central Kingston, in a working class community called South Side.

Tragedy struck early in Leonard's life when he lost his father at the tender age of 15. The loss, as devastating as it was, spurred the development of values that became guiding principles throughout life. He and his older brother Chubby assumed the role of father figure to their younger siblings and it ultimately caused the family to grow closer. Leonard developed a deep love of family and a strong sense of commitment and responsibility. In the years to come he would add a strong work ethic, generosity, courage and grace to the strong set of values that ultimately defined his life.

As a teenager, Leonard began his career in the Aluminum industry in Jamaica as an apprentice with Builder's Aluminum. He worked with Builder's Aluminum as an aluminum fabricator for over 25 years. His role with the company allowed Leonard to hone his work ethic, which became a hallmark in his life. Leonard's job with the aluminum company required him to travel throughout Jamaica and this led to him meeting his beloved Marcia.

Leonard and Marcia began their romance over 26 years ago in the little district of Dromilly, in Trelawney Jamaica. They were best friends and life partners and although they were separated by distance when he migrated to the US, it was not for long. He soon returned to Jamaica for Marcia and they were married in 2006. Leonard migrated to the United States and settled in East Orange, NJ where he worked as a porter in Maple Gardens and a part-time worker at White Castle. During this time, in addition to displaying his great work ethic, he demonstrated his great generosity by helping many relatives, friends and acquaintances acquire jobs with these two organizations.

Leonard was a good husband and father, whose commitment to family and the role of provider was taken very seriously. For many years he was known to work 12-14 hour days at the above referenced organizations, all in an effort to provide for his family. The love he had for his daughter Kedecha and his son, Dandre, the father-figure role he played in the lives of his many nieces and nephews, and of course, the affection he had for his wife are true expressions of his commitment.

Leonard's courage and grace were on full display over the past few years. Despite his illness, he remained congenial. Leonard faced his challenges head on, maintaining his good humor and relishing the opportunity to verbally spar with his friends or brother Chubby. Leonard's quiet strength and infectious laughter will be missed.

Leonard is survived by his wife Marcia, daughter Kedecha (Kenny), son, Dandre "Dan", mother Ms. Olga, brothers and sisters: Chubby, Madge, Yvonne, Norman and Elvis, grandsons Alex and Deshawn, and a host of other relatives and dear friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection
Walt Sorey

Scripture Reading
Old Testament - Norma Tracey
New Testament - Madge Thomas

Prayer of Comfort
Morris Stone

Selection
Walt Sorey

Remarks
(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection
Walt Sorey

Eulogy
Pastor Trevor Edwards

Recessional

INTERMENT

Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, New Jersey

Miss Me, But Let Me Go

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took His hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free.

Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

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

