

In Loving Memory of
Thomas Wayne Cotten

Sunrise
September 12, 1950

Sunset
March 16, 2022



Service

Saturday, March 26, 2022 • 9:30 a.m.

Bethel Church of Morristown
59 Spring St. • Morristown, New Jersey 07960
Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams

Order of Service

ProcessionalClergy and Family
Officiating Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams Jr., Pastor
Hymn of Praise 525.....What a Fellowship
InvocationRev. Joseph Ford
Prayer Response
Musical Selection..... ”His Eye Is On the Sparrow”
Scripture Reading:
Old Testament..... Proverbs 3:3-8 - Sister Arphelia Arizmendi
New Testament John 14:1-6 - Sister Marva Cole-Friday
Musical Selection.....”Rough Side of the Mountain”
Prayer of Comfor Rev. Kareem Duncan
Acknowledgements and Remarks..... Family & Friends
Reflections 3 minutes, poem, Resolution, Remarks
Obituary Readin Tawanna Cotten
Sermonic Selection ”Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Eulogy/Sermon Rev. Elizabeth Cotten
Closing prayer..... Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams Jr.
Final Directions
Recessional ”When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder”
Interment and Committal ... Evergreen Cemetery, Martin Luther King Ave., Morristown, NJ

Repast following Interment:
Craftman Club #71:
257 Martin Luther King Avenue
Morristown, New Jersey

Obituary

Thomas Wayne Cotten Sr., second son born to the Late Herbert L. Cotten Sr. and Viola Davis Cotten. He was born on September 12, 1950 in Scotland Neck, N.C. Thomas was the third born of six children. Thomas became the big brother in the house of four girls once the two older siblings were out of the home.

Thomas also known as Tommy, Tom, and Tom Cat attended Brawley High School from First grade to Twelfth grade before he left school to find a job in New Jersey. It surprised everyone because Tommy was a very smart student. During his young years he seemed to be very impatient and annoyed with the way things were with Black people in the South.

When things didn't work out for him after a few years working at Greystone Psychiatric Hospital, he ventured to Baltimore to live with family there. Once again after a period of time Tommy decided to return home to Scotland Neck to decide what he would do with his life. After a couple of years back home he met and married Minnie Pearl Mitchell. To that union Ikimberly and Thomas Jr. were born. Tommy also gained another daughter Shanita from that union. Even though the couple separated shortly after T.J. was born they remained friends until Minnie passed away in April 2020.

Tommy returned to Greystone around 1981 and after many years of worldly living he turned his life around and became a responsible father, employee and overall great person. He became the person that God created him to be. Tommy worked in a few different positions at the hospital before moving to the cottages in position of Senior Residential Living Specialist (SRLS) where he worked until he retired after 30 + years of service. Tommy also served as Treasurer of ASCME Union for many years, even after retiring from his regular job. Thomas was a devoted father, brother, uncle and friend. His passion for caring for the residents also extended to co-workers and all staff. He was well loved by many and he gladly returned that love and friendship to others.

Even though Tommy attended church regularly as a child he was an adult when he accepted Christ and was baptized becoming a member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Newark N.J. After the passing of his longtime friend Carolyn Phillips, Tommy joined his family at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Morristown where he attended until 2020 when the pandemic prevented in house worship. In as much as Tommy wanted to return to in house worship his illness prevented him from returning. While working in the cottages Tommy found a great love for cooking. He first started with deserts then made his way to full meals.

We will all miss the delicious varieties of cakes and sweet potato pies during holidays, birthdays and just for no reason. Tommy also had a sense of humor that either you got it or got offended by it. He loved talking trash he spoke truth as he recalled it. He was known to be a bit stubborn and protective of the people he loved even to the point of keeping his illness to himself to protect his family from the pain of knowing how serious his illness was. Tommy is preceded in death by his father Herbert Cotten Sr., mother Viola Cotten, sisters Leola, Cordell Cotten Cobbs and Miriam Cotten and nephew Melto Markel Webb; special friend; Carolyn Phillips.

He leaves to cherish his memory: two daughters: Ikimberly (Gerard Williams) Newark; Shanita (James) Hardiman, Pa; son Thomas Jr. Newark; brother Herbert (Sarah) Cotten Morristown, sister Elizabeth Cotten Dover, sister-niece Virginia (Bradford) Broome; grandkids: Thomas Tyrell Cotten, Ty'Kayia, Jaquan & Jashamir Hardiman; Three Aunts: Dorothy Elizabeth Fudge W.O., Elizabeth Cotton, MD and Dorothy Cotton, N.C.; Three Sister-in-Laws: Bretha Mills, Janice Mitchell & Felicia Avent; Two Brother-in-laws: Willi & George Mitchell; Great Grand Jakkai Hardiman; three nices: Alecia & Tawanna Cotten & Krystle Cobbs; four Nephews: Hakim Ali, Arik & James Cotten and RJ Cobbs and a host of great nieces, & great nephews, cousins and friends. Jasmine and Edward Smith & All co-workers from the "ROCK"

"In the words of Thomas W. Cotten Sr. "Stay Strong"

PALLBEARERS

Marshall T. Webb.....Jaquan Hardiman

Arik Cotten..... Gerard Williams

R.J. Cobbs..... Thomas Cotton

Ja'Vonne Parker

Poem To Dad

*Silent, Strong Dad
He never looked for praises
He never was one to boast.
He just went on quietly working
For those he loved the most.
His dreams were seldom spoken
His wants were very few
And most of the time his worries
went unspoken, too.
He was there...a firm foundation
Through all our storms of life
He was a sturdy hand to hold onto
In times of stress and strife
He was a true friend we could turn
to, when times were good or bad
One of our greatest blessings was in
The man that we called Dad.*

Acknowledgements

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown
to their family during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!*

Services Entrusted To:

Rowe Funeral Home

*M. Vernon Rowe, Jr., Manager
NJ License No. 3253*

(973) 538-0520 or (973) 539-2881

71 Washington Street • Morristown, NJ 07960