

# PRECIOUS



# MEMORIES

## I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
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 or 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 up 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 heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!

-author unknown

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The family wishes to express our deepest appreciation for your genuine acts of kindness and for your expressions of sympathy during our time of loss, and in our time of sadness. We appreciate your comforting words and your thoughtfulness, and we sincerely and warmly thank you during this time of bereavement. It means so much to our family.*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE  
130 Plain 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



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

# ROY JAMES THOMAS

August 8, 1941 – April 3, 2023



MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023 - 10:00 AM

**Cotton Funeral Service**

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

www.honorfly.com

# OBITUARY

Roy James Thomas was born August 8, 1941, in Jersey City, NJ, to the late Eugene and Ruby Thomas. He departed this life at home on Monday, April 3, 2023. Roy attended the public school system in Jersey City, NJ. Afterwards, Roy entered the US Army where he served four (4) tours of duty in Vietnam. While serving in the US Army, Roy earned and received several medals, including the Bronze Star for Heroic/Meritorious Achievement, the National Defense Service medal, the Vietnam Service medal, the Distinguished Service medal, and the Good Conduct medal. In addition, Roy earned and received several Expert Weapons Qualification badges. Roy truly was a dedicated soldier in the US Army, and Roy also was a great patriot who loved his country, the USA.

Because Roy was so dedicated to the US Army, and because Roy was such a great patriot to the USA, he became an outstanding spokesperson for the Veterans Administration on a volunteer basis after he completed his last tour of duty in Vietnam. As a spokesperson, Roy advocated for all veterans each and every day, and consequently, the East Orange, NJ Veterans Administration Office honored Roy by hanging his picture in the elevator at the Veterans Administration Office in East Orange. Emphatically, Roy was determined that all veterans would be treated fairly and equally by the Veterans Administration, and he used his voice to make sure it happened. And since Roy was raised with strong Christian values, he always tried to do all he could do for anyone, whether that person was a veteran or not. Roy believed in the “Golden Rule” in Luke 6:31, and in Matthew 7:12, which says “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you ....”

As a man of faith, Roy was a member of Calvary Church, where he volunteered to work in many outreach ministries, including advocating for the homeless, feeding the hungry, and visiting the sick and shut-in.

Roy’s motto was “If I can help somebody as I travel along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or song, if I can show somebody how they’re traveling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain.” Roy’s living was not in vain as many who knew him will say. Music also was one of Roy’s “loves” during his life. Roy passionately loved and sang all types of music. Professionally, he sang with The Manhattans for many years, and ultimately, Roy started his own group called The Ideal's Quintette. After serving in the US Army, and after performing as a professional singer, Roy found a new love and decided to unite in marriage to Evelena McLucas. Roy became a loving husband and a doting dad to Pamela. Roy’s love for Lena and for Pam inspired him to make his family his priority because Roy always wanted the best for his family. Roy worked at the homeless shelter, he worked as a security guard at the welfare department and he also worked and eventually retired from the post office. He really was a hard working man.

Roy was preceded in death by four brothers, Eugene, George, Thomas, and Norman Thomas, and by two sisters Sheryll and Barbara Thomas. He leaves to mourn and cherish his memory, his wife, Evelena McLucas-Thomas, two devoted children, Abdur-Raheem Muhammad and Pamela McLucas, one daughter-in-law Carla Muhammad, eight grandchildren, Darius(Yanique), Jamal, Nadiyah(Mike), Yasmee(Lamont), Safiyyah, Abdur-Rahman, Aliyah and Abdul-Aziz, six great grandchildren, a sister, Paula Chestine, a special aunt, Florida “Flo” Johnson, a special cousin, Jaqueline “Jackie” Woolford, and a host of beloved nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Roy left everyone with his favorite saying, “Be Blessed!”

We rejoice knowing that Roy, our loved one, is in the arms of Jesus, The Family

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Officiant.....Pastor Michael T. Morrison

Scripture Reading..... Sheila Alston John 14: 1-6

Prayer of Comfort..... Pastor Andrew D. Griffin

Selection..... Eddie Smith

Remarks ( 2 mins each please)..... Family & Friends

**\*\*Acknowledgements & Resolution  
Pastor Andrew D. Griffin**

Poem Reading..... Abdur-Rahman Muhammad

Obituary..... Sheila Alston

Eulogy..... Michael T. Morrison

Recessional



## INTERMENT

William C. Doyle Veteran’s Memorial  
Wrightstown, New Jersey