

*In Loving Memory of*



*Leila E. Thompson*

*Sunrise: November 30, 1938*

*Sunset: July 11, 2023*

**FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023 - 11:00 AM**

**New Hope Memorial Baptist Church**

**91 Division Street • Elizabeth, NJ**

**Rev. Steffie Bartley, Officiating**

## *Obituary*

Leila Elgita Gamez-Thompson was born in Bluefields, Nicaragua on November 30, 1938 to Pablo Gamez and Francina Morgan. Leila moved to Colón, Panama in the early 1940's with her mother and her three siblings.

At 16 years old, Leila met and fell in love with Benjamin Leacock Thompson, who was a member of the United States Navy. They got married in Panama, before moving to Newark, New Jersey to begin their new life together. After living in Newark for approximately 10 years, the couple purchased their home in Hillside, NJ. This loving home on Bayview Avenue would be a place where 8 children were raised, Juanita, Edwin, Raquel, Lorenzo, Vilma, Linda, Elisha and Leila.

Leila was a very hard worker. She held several jobs in factories, and as a home health aide. Leila retired from Merck Pharmaceuticals in 2005 as a Chemical Operator, but her passion was caring for others. Leila was a holistic healer, and if you know Leila, you should already know one her most recommended remedies is apple cider vinegar.

Leila had a loving, caring and compassionate heart for anyone she came in contact with. Her door on Bayview Avenue was open to anyone in need. She showed comfort to others with her amazing cooking and storytelling. You never had to wonder what she was thinking because she prided herself on speaking her mind. In her free time, Leila enjoyed bowling, poker, bingo and playing cards.

Leila survived many obstacles as a woman coming to a country not knowing anyone but her husband. Raising her family with any guidance from her parents was extremely hard. It took a lot of strength to move forward in life without minimal support.

Leila had special relationships with so many that loved her. She was preceded in death by Benjamin, her son Edwin, daughter Juanita, close friends Rosalia Daley and Angel Caraballo, as well as many other family and friends.

Her lively spirit will truly be missed. Along with her children Leila leaves to cherish her legacy her grandchildren, AvonKene, Zanaida, Rasul, Beonca, Tamir, Ahmad, Naji, Nasir, Zahneer, Asha, Kayla, Jada, Brandon, Leila, Kaylyn, Leilany and a host of great grandchildren.

This is not a "Good-Bye", but until we see you again WE LOVE YOU!

*Order of Service*

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

*Interment*

Evergreen Cemetery  
Hillside, NJ

# Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

---

### 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

