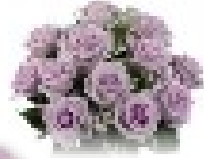




*Celebration for the Life  
of*



*Dr. Vanrea Majorie Davis-Thomas*

Sunrise: December 19, 1941

Sunset: July 16, 2012

*Service*

*Friday, July 20, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.*

**ROY L. GILMORE'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

191-02 Linden Blvd.  
St. Albans, New York 11412



# Obituary

**Vanrea Marjorie Davis-Thomas**, the first child of Karl and Dorothy Davis was born in Nassau, Bahamas on December 19th, 1941. She was an extraordinarily curious child. This curiosity allowed her to search the surroundings around her beyond the usual realm of her peers. She possessed a strong personality and was a natural born leader; many were attracted to her because of her charisma.

At the age of 4 she was chosen to present a bouquet of flowers to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The Duke was governor of Bahamas at the time. She made fun out of everything, at an early age she knew how to make everyone laugh. These times fondly remembered by her sister Judy at school when Vanrea when reading a sentence and came to a word that she could not pronounce she would say “big word” and keep on reading, leaving all of her classmates in hysterics.

In those early years she would be considered a tom boy. She would never back down from a fight no matter how big the opponent in order to protect her younger siblings and cousins. She was very athletic, and loved sports, she played field hockey, tennis, golf, and cricket for many years’. She loved fishing, sailing, and swimming. She loved gourmet food, and she was a great cook, always willing to try different recipes. She loved to travel. She was a collector of Saints. She embraced life to the fullest and always the life of the party.

She began her education at Quarry Mission (1-2), Timothy Gibson Junior (3-6), Western Junior High Eastern Senior High School where she graduated at the age of 16 and begun her teaching career in the Bahamas Government education system. After 11 years of teaching she entered the Bahamas Teachers College and the University of the West Indies where she earned her Teacher’s Certificate and Librarian Diploma. She returned to The Bahamas and took a position at the College of the Bahamas as an English teacher. There she became Professor Thomas. In 1975 Professor moved to Florida to continue her education at Florida Atlantic University, in Boca Raton where she obtained a Bachelor’s degree in English. She returned to the College of The Bahamas taking on the role of Librarian while continuing her education at Pratt Institute in New York City over the summer months, where she earned a Master’s degree in Library Science. After relocating to New York Professor Thomas became a life-long learner obtaining a post masters certificate in Library and Information Sciences, and a Doctoral degree.

Prior to her appointment at Medgar Evers College, Professor Thomas served as a Director of Library Services and a lecturer at The College of the Bahamas in Nassau, Bahamas. She also served as the Head Librarian at the Nassau Public Library. Furthermore, simultaneously she was appointed as the Head of Library Education at the University of the West Indies. In addition to this experience, Professor Thomas possessed strong educational credentials in the discipline of Library Sciences. Professor Thomas’s love of reading stemmed in part from her B.A. in English from Florida Atlantic University and extended to other languages. She had a reading knowledge of French, Spanish, German, Russian and Italian.

A native of The Bahamas, Thomas’ tenure at Medgar Evers College began in 1993 as an Assistant Professor and Associate Librarian for the College’s Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library. In this role, she oversaw Reader and Information Services. From the beginning, Professor Thomas distinguished herself as a hard worker and knowledgeable librarian who brought a sense of mission to her work at the College. Initially, her duties focused on planning, evaluating, and coordinating all operations for Reader and Information Services. In time, those duties expanded to include oversight of all operations and activities for Access Services, References Services, Reserves (hard copy and electronic), Collection Maintenance, Student Information and Guidance Services, and Library Exhibitions/ Displays. She played a vital role in spearheading the integration of innovative technologies into all library systems and in expanding the digital/electronic databases of the College library. Her instructional talents were also evident in the valuable guidance she provided when assisting faculty and students with research or on use of the library’s electronic databases and reference materials. Her capable leadership in the advancement of the library’s services and

# *Order of Service*

Input and Eulogy for wake service

Alexei Olounov – Tribute

QuingGuo Haung – Selection of Classical Music on the Cello

Mernel Cox – Poem

Vinette Thomas – Song

## **Interment**

St. Charles Cemetery  
Farmingdale, New York





## *Invictus*



Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll.  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

*William Ernest Henley*

## *In Appreciation*

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all who provided comfort during this difficult period. Words cannot express how much your acts of kindness have meant to us. We will be forever grateful and we want you to know that we will always cherish the thought that you cared.

The Family

*A special thank you to Carlyne Smith for being at our beck and call and Dr. Alexi Oulanov for helping us to understand her contributions to the college.*

*In Lieu of flowers donations could be sent to Medgar Evers College Scholarship Fund in memory of Professor Vanrea Thomas.*

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Professional Services Provided By:

*Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.*

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*

Ph (718) 529-3030 • (718) 528-7765

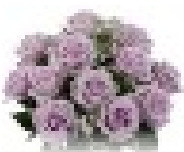
Fax (718) 712-2108 • (718) 528-2575

Email: royl.gilmorefuneralhome@verizon.net

MAIN OFFICE

191-02 Linden Blvd.  
St. Albans, L.I., NY 11412

116-53 Sutphin Blvd.  
Jamaica, L.I., NY 11436



resources led to her appointment as the Acting Chief Librarian and Chair of the Department of Library and Media Services. Even though she was a Department Chair, faculty and students always were asking her for help with their research, and just wanted to talk to her and ask her for advice on all kinds of matters. Her office always offered a hospitable respite from the demands of College life. She welcomed trading personal anecdotes, recipes and book recommendations with colleagues who dropped by to chat.

Professor Thomas's service to the College was also demonstrated by her active involvement on committees such as the Library Technology Committee, which she chaired, the Library Resource Committee, the College-Wide Personnel and Budget Committee, the Committee on Recruitment, Admission and Retention, the Core Curriculum Committee, the Academic Standards and Regulation Committee, the Customer Service Committee and the Library Expansion Committee. She was equally committed to the University and served on The City University of New York's (CUNY) Council of Chief Librarians, the Library Association of The City University of New York, the CUNY Libraries Public Service Committee and the CUNY Libraries Land Contact and Primary Contacts Committees.

Consistent dedication to professional development and networking across institutions were cornerstones of Professor Thomas' leadership. She participated in Harvard University's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians and The College of the Bahamas' Advanced Management Program for Library Administrators. Her professional affiliations included membership in the American Library Association, the Academic Libraries of Brooklyn, the New York Librarians Black Caucus and the Metropolitan New York Library Council. Professor Thomas also believed in community engagement and served on the Board of Trustees for the Center for African Development International (CADI), the Board of Education's Queens County President's Council, and as a member of ACORN.

Professor Thomas was the ultimate educator encouraging all those around her to continue their education and to go as far as they could possibly go. She had a flair for research and authored a number of research articles which she presented at various international conferences. As Professor Thomas continued to aspire to obtain her doctoral degree, this inspired her sister Sandfra to pursue and earn her Master's degree despite her disability.

Professor Thomas was not only dedicated to the College and its students; she was deeply committed to her family.

Left to mourn are her: **Husband:** Cuthbert; **Daughters:** Glenda, Pamela, Karla; **Sons:** Cuthbert (Cutty), Valdez, Edruseu (Ed); **Sisters:** Judith Dawkins, Sandfra Oliver, Dorothea King, Casscine Grant-Kinnear, Esther Curry; **Brother-in-law:** Richard Dawkins; **Grandchildren:** Elton, Shauna, Karl, Valdez Jr.(Desi), Isaiah, Josiah, Joshua; **Great-grandchildren:** Jaavon, Joey **Daughter-in-law:** Sharon; **Sons-in-law:** Christopher, Paynter, Michael and Florence; **Nieces:** Eva, Etha, Gian, Ikena, Syllfronia, Sheena, Rhonda; **Nephews:** Garner, Miguel, Jacques, Christopher, Kenneth, Jue-Hènri, Juron, Julian (JK), Richard (RH), Isaac, Ian, Tehran, Jefferson, Trevor; **Grand-nieces:** Shaunna, Shannon, Kianna, Shayne; **Grand-nephews:** Xavier, Trusten, Erim, Jefferson, Devon; **Other relatives and friends** including Beryl Cummings, Vernell, Al and Don Brennen, Jen Higgs, Judith Francis, Carlyne Smith, Angel Armbrister, Glen Stewart, Kim Thomas, Patricia Strachan, Rodman Forbes, Mara and Marj Butler, Carol Washington, Alamanda Galanis, Lonnie Scott Jr., Alexei Oulanov, QingGuo Huang, Kirk and Francine Thurston, Una Miller, Sarah Ferguson, Terry Turnquest, Maurice and Wendy Case, and other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

## TRIBUTES

*You looked out for me here and now you are looking out for me in heaven. I love you Mummy.*

*Cuthbert Thomas, Son*

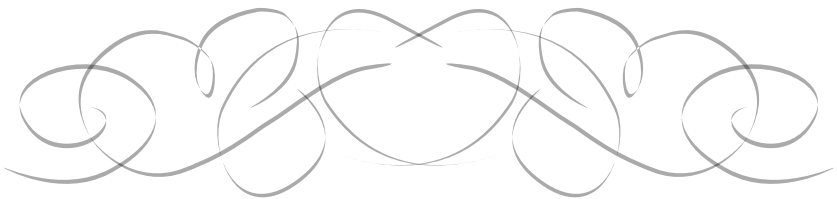
*Well how does one deal with the sudden loss of a parent? There is no script or guideline, with its raw emotions that surround the situation. Most people would say that you should seek guidance through your faith and I would have to agree with that. On July 16<sup>th</sup> my family was put into this spectrum, we lost the most important figure in our lives, our mother, Vanrea Marjorie Thomas. Our mother was a person whom my siblings and I looked for guidance, in our daily lives. I would say, for the most part, that her advice was always positive and correct. She was easily approachable as a person. Her children, family, and colleagues can attest to this. This is why I think we were so respectful to her in our day to day encounters with her. She always made me proud of her accomplishments in life. She excelled from a woman who paid her way through University, by cleaning toilets to put her through school, to meeting the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and Queen Elizabeth II in a formal setting on two different occasions, culminating with the highest level of higher education as a working professional. These may seem like trivial accomplishments to some, but for a woman who came from such humble beginnings in life she has made me and every member of our family proud from her children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and colleagues. We are all so proud of her accomplishments,*

*and more importantly the many contributions that she made in her life, that has made our lives much better. We shall miss you; we will cherish our memories, for we know we shall be in your presence soon.*

*Edriseu Forbes, Son*

*Grandma is and always will be special to me. She was my mother, father, and grandmother all in one. No matter what, I always knew she would be there for me, as she always was. She will always be in my heart, my thoughts, because of the memories I have with her. I know God is with her, and that she no longer suffers. Even though she is not here with us on Earth, she is in Heaven watching over all of her family and friends. I promised her that I will graduate from college, and that is a promise I will make sure to keep. With everything I do in life, I have always wanted her to be proud of me, because I am and have always been proud to be her granddaughter. One day I know I will see her again, but I am going to miss her every day, and I will always love her.*

*Shauna Thomas, Grand-daughter*





120101 (Form 10/04) (REVISED)

## Medical Emeris College

3000 University of Utah Blvd.

1000 Southpark Lane

Provo, UT 84601-1000

Phone: 714.776.3000 Fax: 714.776.1776

July 27, 2004

To the Faculty of

Medical Emeris College

120101 (Form 10/04) (REV)

Medical Emeris College, UT 84601

Dear Faculty Members:

On behalf of my office and the entire Medical Emeris College community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy on the passing of our beloved colleague and dear friend, Dr. Robert William Thomas. Dr. Thomas was a well-known faculty member and a caring colleague. He has left behind a family and a community that will miss his presence.

Since our 2003, we have maintained a high standard for our faculty members. It is a privilege to work with the faculty at Medical Emeris College, with the goal of professional integrity and dedication. One cannot speak about Emeris College Courses and its students. We served all areas of our campus, students, faculty, staff and community. Working with you, our colleagues, Medical Emeris College, we have the best of the best. The Medical Emeris College community will miss your presence and your contributions to the Medical Emeris College community. The Medical Emeris College and Medical Emeris College will miss your presence.

If there is anything that you would like to discuss your family, please do not hesitate to call me. We will use for your pleasure concerning the funeral arrangements and how we can do our office to inform the college community. We want to know the funeral arrangements. Please do not hesitate to call me.

My sincere sympathy and deepest condolences to your family. I hope that you will find some solace in my thoughts and prayers. I hope that you will find some solace in my thoughts and prayers. I hope that you will find some solace in my thoughts and prayers.

Respectfully,

Dr. William A. Thomas

Medical Emeris College

Provo, UT