



*Homegoing Celebration for*

*William D. Thornton, Sr.*

**Sunrise**  
**October 10, 1923**

**Sunset**  
**July 9, 2013**

*Service*

Monday, July 15, 2013 - 12:00 Noon

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**

221 Myrtle Avenue

Paterson, New Jersey

*Rev. Kortney Haigler, Officiating*

## *Reflections of Life*

*William D. Thornton, Sr. of Passaic, New Jersey went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. William was born on October 10, 1923 in Pennsylvania, William was the son of the late David Thornton, Minnie (Payne) and Anna Thornton.*

*William moved from Pennsylvania to New Jersey as a youth, where he developed a love for basketball, baseball and football. After graduating from Lodi High School he joined the U.S. Army, was promoted to sergeant and fought for his country during World War II. Upon discharge, he attended Seton Hall University.*

*On Sept. 5, 1948, William met and married Mildred A. Brown. This loving union produced two children, William D. Thornton, Jr. and Patrice Thornton Warner.*

*William served as an NY-Port of Authority police officer in the Bus Terminal and in the Lincoln Tunnel. While working in New York, he identified the need for outreach to runaway children and established a safe haven program in the metropolitan area. Following this significant career, he became a member of the security detail at JP Morgan Bank and Company in Manhattan.*

*William had a passion for serving Christ and studying the Bible. He was a lifelong member of Union Baptist Church Passaic. He served faithfully as a Trustee and worked with the New Members Ministry. Throughout his life, William participated in various civic organizations such as the NAACP, Veterans of Foreign War, Project Hope, Fair Housing and the Police Benevolent Association. William was also active in the community as a Boy Scout Troop Leader of Troop 42.*

*William's passion for recreational activities included bowling and tennis, and he won numerous tennis tournaments in Forest Hills, NY. His love of sports led him to coach citywide basketball at the Passaic-Clifton YMCA.*

*William, better known as "Bill" to many, will be remembered for his love of family and great sense of humor, often taking the time to tell many colorful and expressive stories ending in his trademark smile and laugh. His family and friends will never forget his strength, character and strong sense of responsibility. This courage enabled him to run into a burning house to rescue three children, a truly heroic and unselfish act, for which he was recognized by the City of Passaic and NY-NJ Port of Authority with a distinction of honor.*

*He is predeceased by sister-in-law, Agnes Judson (John) and brother-in-law, Walter Parker Jr.*

*William is survived by: his loving wife, Mildred; son, William Jr.; daughter, Patrice L. Warner (Enrick); granddaughters, Danielle A. Brooks (Robert) and Jillian Thornton Warner; sisters-in-law, Gloria Frazier, Barbara Williams and Nora Parker; brother-in-law, Alexander Parker (Patsy); and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*

*Lovingly,  
The Family*

# Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....Church Organist  
Processional.....Clergy  
Solo.....Yvonne A. Hopkins  
Scripture Readings.....Reverend Marti Robinson  
Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Old Testament - Psalm 23  
New Testament - John 14:1-6  
Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Kortney Haigler  
(Union Baptist Church)  
Reflections.....Family and Friends  
Acknowledgements.....Louise Davidson  
Reflections of Life.....Danielle A. Brooks  
Solo.....Yvonne A. Hopkins  
Eulogy ..... Rev. Gloria Killings  
Associate Minister, Union Baptist Church  
Recessional.....Clergy and Family

## **Interment**

East Ridgelawn Cemetery  
Clifton, New Jersey

## **Repast**

Friends are invited to join the family for a repast  
following the interment.



# *Good Bye Family*

*Good Bye family I had to go  
But there's something I want you to know  
I enjoyed you while I had life  
I had to cross over with my Father Jesus Christ.*

*Don't you cry, don't shed a tear  
Just look up and my love will appear  
So good bye daughter, good bye son  
O don't let me forget my little one*

*I'll see you soon one day  
Just remember I am OK,  
Go on and live your life*

*You will soon cross over with Jesus Christ  
Don't weep or mourn because you will all  
Be called home, Good Bye, Good Bye Love you all,  
Just remember don't let my death let you fall*

*Hold on, hold on tight  
I'll see you soon, Goodnight.*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges the receipt of many expressions of love for a big man who had an even bigger laugh. We are so thankful to God for allowing his transition from this life to the next to have been so peaceful.*

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