



*In Loving Memory of*

*Dr. Thomy D. Joyner*

# Obituary

**Dr. Thomy D. Joyner**, oldest daughter of the late John and Katherine Davis Shomsdeen, was born in Lancaster, South Carolina.

Early in her life, Thomy decided to pursue a career in education. Thomy earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from the Newark State Teachers College, now known as Kean University. Then, Thomy earned her Masters of Arts in Education from Seton Hall University. A few years later, she earned her Doctorate in Education from the University of Florida.

As a dedicated educator, Thomy worked as a teacher, a principal and as an administrator in the Newark Public Schools for thirty-five years. In 1968, Dr. Joyner served as Supervisor of Elementary Education. In this capacity, she worked with a committee of other educators to develop the Follow Through Program in the Newark Public Schools. The Follow Through Program became a national model for curriculum in preschools and early childhood education programs in the late 1960's and 1970's. After serving as Supervisor of Elementary Education, Thomy went on to serve as Administrative Supervisor, in the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education. In this position, she worked in all facets of administration of Secondary Education. In 1984, Dr. Joyner retired with several honors for her role as an exemplary educator in the Newark Public Schools.

After retiring in 1984 from the Newark Public Schools, Thomy joined the City Association of Supervisors and Administrators-Retired (CASA-R). In 2004, Thomy went on to serve as President of CASA-R, which she served until her passing. During her retirement from education, besides being a member of CASA-R, Thomy was a member of several other organizations.

As an avid believer in God, Thomy was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newark, NJ for about forty years. As a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, for twenty years Thomy was active in St. Monica's Guild, where she and other women in this organization helped to improve the lives of people in the community.

A third organization that Thomy was an active member in was The Newark Museum. Thomy had been a member of the Newark Museum for at least twenty years, when in 2006, she became a member of the Volunteer Board. Also, she held several leadership positions with the Newark Museum Volunteer Board. Thomy was voted Vice President in 2008, President in 2010 and President Emeritus from 2012-2014. Additionally, for her efforts in the volunteer service with the Newark Museum Volunteer Board, Thomy was given awards for her service in 2013 and 2014.

A fourth organization that Thomy was an active member in was the Northeasterners. In 1964, Thomy with a group of other professional women founded the New Jersey Chapter of the Northeasterners, Inc. The Northeasterners are groups who foster friendships among professional women. In 2014, Thomy was honored as one of the living founders of the New Jersey Chapter of the Northeasterners.

Last, but not least where she lived, The Harrison Park Towers, Thomy had been voted Vice President in 2005 and President in 2007 of the Board of Directors for the Harrison Park Owners, Inc. In addition to being a member of the Board of Directors, Thomy was a member and supporter of the Nomination/Election Committee, the Marketing Committee, the Newsletter Committee and the Gardens Committee.

In addition to being a member of several organizations, Thomy was an avid listener of the opera. At least one or twice a year Thomy visited the New Jersey State Opera and/or the New York State Opera. In addition to going to the opera, Thomy loved going out to dinner, seeing a good movie and attending the theatre. Besides the opera, a good dinner, a movie and the theatre, Thomy was fond of traveling. In earlier years, Thomy's love of travel took her to South Africa, India, Spain, Australia, Brazil and Antarctica. However, in recent years, Thomy loved to travel to Aruba and Norway to visit friends and family, respectively. Also, on special occasions, Thomy enjoyed hosting parties for friends. Equally important, Thomy loved to entertain at home with breakfast and/or dinner with her nieces, Shawn, Sharon and Penny.

Thomy leaves to celebrate her life: her brother-in-law, Clifton Sturdivant; nieces, Shawn Sturdivant, Sharon Baldwin, Penny Ross of Arizona, Paula Massey of Maryland, Kim Joyner, Ernestine (Teeny) Thigpen of Delaware and Connie Ann Tellmann of Norway; nephews, Herbert and Ronald Massey of Maryland, Henry Plummer Joyner, Richard Thigpen, Philip Thigpen of Washington, DC, David Thigpen of Chicago, Lief Tellmann of Seattle, Bjarne Tellmann of New York and Erik Tellmann of Norway; cousin-in-law and caregiver, Blanche Tann; caregiver, Maria Dejean; friend, Irene Pomianswski; and many, many other relatives and friends.

*Service*

*Saturday, September 13, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.*

# **ROCK SPRING COUNTRY CLUB**

*Rev. Michael Delaney, Officiating*

## *Order of Service*

**Processional**

**Prayer of Comfort**

**Invocation**

**Musical Selection**

**Scripture**

**Musical Selection**

**Obituary Reading**

**Acknowledgements & Remarks**

**Selection**

**Eulogy**

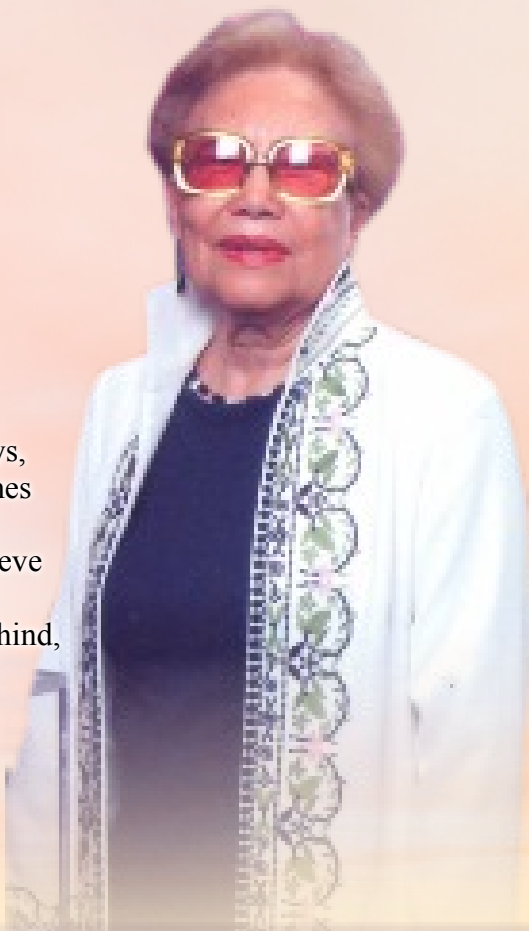
**Benediction**

**Recessional**

# Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me  
To be a happy one,  
I'd like to leave an afterglow  
Of smiles when day is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo  
Whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
And bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve  
To dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave behind,  
When the day is done.

-Helen Lowrie Marshall



## Acknowledgements

The family of **Dr. Thomy D. Joyner** gratefully appreciates your thoughtful kindness and expressions of love and sympathy.

May God richly bless you, and give you peace.

A "special thank you," to Blanche Tann and Marie Dejean, caregivers and friends to Dr. Thomy D. Joyner and the family.

Professional Services Entrusted To  
**James E. Churchman Jr.**  
Funeral Home



345 13th Avenue • Newark, New Jersey  
ph (973) 242-8454

[www.churchmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.churchmanfuneralhome.com)

