

*A Celebration of
Life, Love and Adventure*

Deacon

William

Thomas

Petty



Sunrise

March 6, 1945

Sunset

October 24, 2014

Saturday, November 1, 2014 - 10:00 A.M.

St. John Baptist Church

137 Fairmount Avenue • Newark, New Jersey

Pastor Patrick Council, Officiating,



Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional

Hymn of Assurance Choir

Scripture Reading

Old Testament (Psalm 121)

Minister Vincent Hawthorne

New Testament (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

Bro. Justin Stowall

Prayer of Consolation Rev. Thomas Judd

Selection Sis. Mary Stanford

Condolences/Acknowledgements/Resolutions ... Sis. Gertrude Wells

Obituary Sis. Lettie Milton

Words of Comfort

Representing The Church Family Deacon Clifford Alford

Remarks and Reflections

Veronica - Tiffany - Bridget - Jessica - Jason

Selection Sis. Victoria Starr

Eulogy Pastor Patrick Council

Hymn of Triumph Choir

Recessional

Interment

Hollywood Memorial Park
Union, New Jersey

*Friends are invited to join the family for a repast,
at the church, immediately following interment.*

Obituary

Deacon William Thomas Petty was born in Emporia, Virginia, Greenville County, to the late Thomas and Lucille Petty. **William** attended Greenville County Elementary School. He attended Little Shiloh Baptist Church and was baptized at an early age. **William** and his family moved to Newark, New Jersey in 1956 and he continued his education at West Side High School. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1963 and was there until 1965 when his tour of duty was ended with an honorable discharge and rank of E3.

William joined the International Masons and Order of Eastern Stars (Job Grand Lodge) in 1972. He became a Master Mason in Lodge Saint James #37. During this time from 1981-1986 the **Illustrious William Thomas Petty** moved up in the order to the Knights Templar. The Knights Templar was **William's** favorite order. He traveled all over the United States helping to set up Lodges and initiating members. In 1992 **William** was raised to the 33rd Degree in Plantation, Florida.

William joined Sunrise Gospel Baptist Church in 1974 under Rev. Louis W. Knight. He worked as a trustee and drove the Sunday School van. In 1978 at Sunrise Gospel Baptist Church **William** was ordained as a deacon.

In 1987 **William** moved his membership to St. John Baptist Church in Newark, NJ under the leadership of the late Rev. Howard B. Washington. **William was a faithful deacon and worked dutifully in the church. He always gave a helping hand wherever needed. William** was chaplain for the Deacon's Ministry, he worked with the Youth Ministry, was the deacon advisor for the Scholarship Ministry, was a member of the Pastor's Aides Ministry as well as being deacon advisor. He started the Pastor's Aide Chicken and Waffle Breakfast. He was also a member of the Missionary Circle and was the Chairperson for the church's Annual Summer Outings.

In 1989 **William** became an entrepreneur and opened Diamond Care Medical Transportation employing sixteen workers. This business lasted for ten years.

William was previously employed by General Motors, Royal Foods, S-KOOL Detective Agency and Wakefern.

In 1999 **William** became the owner operator of S-Petty1 Transport which continued until he became ill.

In 1996 **William** met his lovely wife Sheryl and they were married in 2000. They shared 14 wonderful years together.

William was an avid drag racing fan and owned a 1978 Chevy Malibu that he affectionately called "The Diamond Express." He also loved riding his Honda Goldwing motorcycle with his wife. They traveled the country together. **William** was also a member of the *Newark Knights Motorcycle Club*.

William was the recipient of many honors among them were NJ Founders Day Council Torch Bearer Honoree, Saint John Baptist Church "Give Me My Flowers" Honoree, Newark Municipal Council Honoree, presented by Mrs. Mildred Crump, Municipal Council president at Saint John Baptist Church O.B. Boyd Annual Scholarship Luncheon for improving the quality of life for all people through academic excellence.

William's favorite song was "Life's Railway to Heaven." He loved his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to whom he gave all honor and praise!

William leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Sheryl; three daughters, Veronica Manuel, Somerset, NJ, Tiffany Scott (Gregory), Easton PA and Bridget Petty, Landover, MD; two step-children, Jessica Richardson, Irvington, NJ and Jason Richardson, Roselle, NJ; eleven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; mother-in-law, Anne Gadson, Orange, NJ; two aunts, Ella Ruth Hawthorne, Union, NJ and Pecola Gilliam, Newark, NJ; two brothers-in-law, Edwin Gadson, Buffalo, NY and Gregg Gadson, East Orange, NJ; and a host of cousins and many, many friends.

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Life's Railway to Heaven

*Life is like a mountain railway,
With an engineer that's brave;
We must make the run successful,
From the cradle to the grave;
Watch the curves, the fills, the tunnels;
Never falter, never fail;
Keep your hands upon the throttle,
And your eyes upon the rail.*

Refrain:

*Blessed Savior, Thou wilt guide us,
Till we reach that blissful shore,
Where the angels wait to join us
In Thy praise forevermore.*

*You will roll up grades of trial;
You will cross the bridge of strife;
See that Christ is your conductor
On this lightning train of life;
Always mindful of obstruction,
Do your duty, never fail;
Keep your hands upon the throttle,
And your eyes upon the rail.*

*You will often find obstructions,
Look for storms and wind and rain;
On a fill, or curve, or trestle
They will almost ditch your train;
Put your trust alone in Jesus,
Never falter, never fail;
Keep your hands upon the throttle,
And your eyes upon the rail.*

*As you roll across the trestle,
Spanning Jordan's swelling tide,
You behold the Union Depot
Into which your train will glide;
There you'll meet the Sup'rintendent,
God, the Father, God the Son,
With the hearty, joyous plaudit,
"Weary Pilgrim, welcome home."*

-Eliza R. Snow



Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

Professional Services Provided By

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