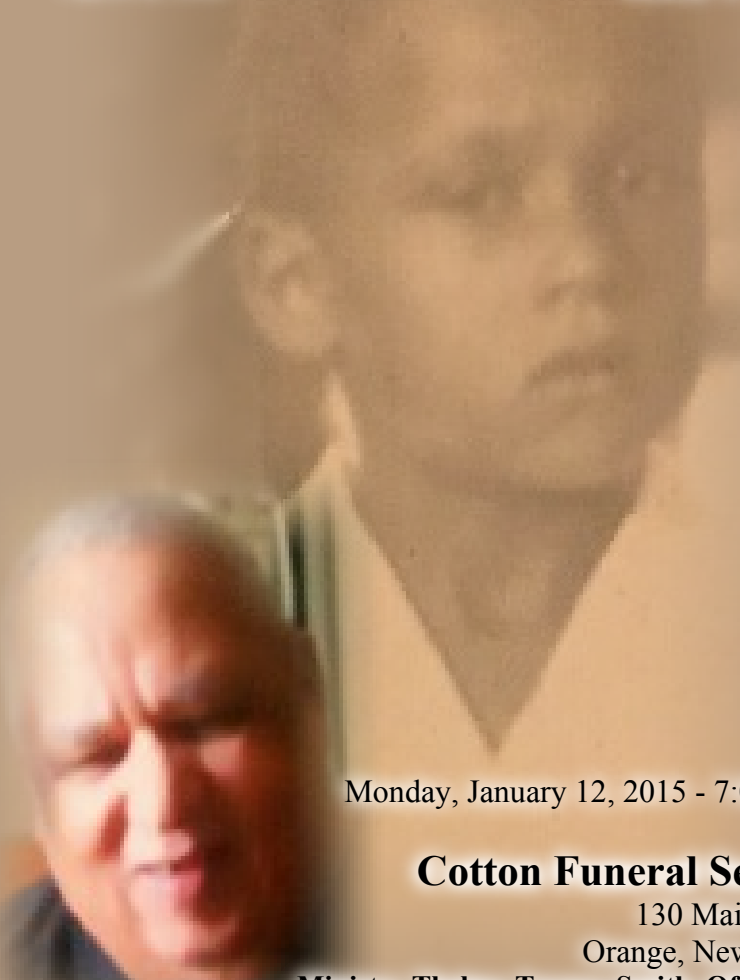


# A Celebration of Life For Chester Thorp

Sunrise  
March 4, 1939

Sunset  
January 5, 2015



Monday, January 12, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

## **Cotton Funeral Service**

130 Main Street

Orange, New Jersey

**Minister Thelma Turner-Smith, Officiating**

**Tony Smith, Eulogist**

# Obituary

On January 5, 2015, **Chester Thorp** entered eternal rest at 11:40 a.m. at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, New Jersey.

Chester was the fourth and last son born to the late Frank Thorp and Essie Mae Black Thorp arriving on the 4th of March, 1939 in Granville County, North Carolina.

Chester dwelled in Granville County with his mother and three brothers as his father was tragically killed when Chester was just weeks old. His mother, eventually realizing that as a single parent she could not care for the boys moved to Orange, New Jersey to seek employment that would enable her to provide for them. The “boys” were sent to live with their grandmother and were cared for by her and their mother’s siblings.

Chester started school in the Person County school district (Roxboro, NC). When Chester was in the first grade he was hit by a car as he was getting off the school bus. Chester lay in a coma for 90 days. His grandmother was supported by her then employer (The Palmer family of Short Hills) during this crisis. Her employer helped her to secure a two bed room apartment in Orange enabling her to bring her two youngest boys (Robert and Chester) to live with her. Chester then attended Park Ave School completing his formal education in the Orange school system. During this time Chester joined Union Baptist Church in Orange where he was a faithful member of the Sunday School. His siblings always teased him about forgetting his lines one year in the Sunday school Easter pageant. Chester was disciplined by his mother for not taking the role seriously. Although too late to save him, the discipline was somewhat effective as Chester recited that poem perfectly to us on his 75th birthday.

Soon after Chester completed his formal education he joined the Army. He was so young he needed his mother’s permission to join. She signed and Chester served two years in the Army. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army once again with the help of his mother’s employer he got a job working for the NJ Department of Transportation, at that time it was called the Highway Department.

Chester retired on disability from the NJ Department of Transportation after 25 years of service with injuries the doctors indicated were directly related to the school bus accident he had in his youth. He lived with his brother Woodroe’s family until he suffered a life threatening heat stroke. Upon his miraculous recovery, he became a resident of Morris Hill Center in Morristown.

Chester was a kind loving man. He was always buying ice cream for his nieces and nephews and was always willing to go to New York to pick up Linda and Barry for sleepovers at grandma’s house. His siblings doted on him. Woodroe took him in when he became disabled and his brother Elmo had breakfast with his two brothers almost every Sunday until his health failed.

Chester joins in eternal life: his parents; Frank Thorp and Essie Mae Black Thorp, brothers; Robert, Elmo and Woodroe and niece Linda Thorp.

He leaves to cherish his memories: three sisters in law, Gladys Thorp, East Orange, NJ, Marie Thorp, Jersey City, NJ and Bernice Thorp Birch, Aberdeen, North Carolina; two aunts, Bishop Mary Black of Roxboro, NC and Mary Black of East Orange, NJ; four nieces, Linda Garret, Burlington, NC, Cheryl Thorp, Bloomfield, NJ, Tina Thorp, Jersey City, NJ, Yolanda Thorp Smith (Tony) East Orange, NJ; two nephews, Benjamin Thorp, Jersey City, NJ and Barry Thorp, Bronx, NY; many great nieces and nephews and a host of other family and friends.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Reading

Solo.....Antonique Smith (Niece)

Tribute.....Cheryl Thorp (Niece)

Obituary.....Cheryl Thorp (Niece)

Solo.....Antonique Smith (Niece)

Eulogy.....Tony Smith (Nephew)

Benediction

## **Interment**

Graceland Cemetery  
Kenilworth, New Jersey





# I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,

Then fill it up with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,

Oh, yes these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,

I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savored much.

Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,

Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,

God wanted me now, He set me free!

-author unknown



## Acknowledgement

We the family of **Chester Thorp**, thank you for your expressions of love and compassion. Your kindness will always be remembered.

The Family

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

