

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Claudette L. Thompson

Sunrise
October 12, 1935

Sunset
August 28, 2026



Friday, September 18, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Northside Community Chapel Church

90 Jefferson Street, Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Sheila Holmes, Officiating

Obituary

Claudette L. Thompson, affectionately known as “Sue” to family members and friends, was a bright and loving presence whose life reflected faith, strength, humor, and devotion to family. She was born on October 12, 1935, in Hackensack, NJ to Ida Mae Mann and William Mack Thompson.

Sue lived a life that left a lasting imprint on everyone fortunate enough to know her. She was a Christian woman whose days were guided by prayer, purpose, and a deep commitment to caring for others. She carried herself with grace, and she met life with a spirit that was both steady and uplifting.

Sue was a proud member of the Ramapough Lenape Native Tribe of Mahwah, New Jersey, and she held that identity with dignity and respect. Her life was rooted in heritage, family, and community, and she understood the importance of belonging to something greater than oneself. She was the kind of woman who did not simply speak about values, she lived them. She showed up, she gave of herself, and she created a home and a legacy where love could grow strong.

Family was the center of Sue’s world, and she poured her heart into the people she loved. Her family tree is a testament to the many lives she touched, and her love remains woven into each branch. She was a mother whose love remained powerful and enduring through every season of life, and her children will continue to honor her legacy.

Sue was a selfless woman who made time to nurture and grow her children, and that gift shaped generations. She understood that love is not only spoken, but demonstrated through sacrifice, patience, guidance, and consistency. She gave her family the kind of foundation that cannot be measured by words alone. She was funny, wise, and loving, and those qualities made her unforgettable. She had a way of making people feel seen, heard, and welcomed. Her laughter could lighten a room, and her wisdom could steady a troubled heart. She knew how to encourage without judgment, and she knew how to correct with care.

Her work ethic was another reflection of her character. Sue served at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Paterson, where she provided daycare and helped care for children with kindness and responsibility. She also worked at Manhattan Shirt Co. in Hawthorne as a seamstress, where her hands and attention to detail contributed to the labor that supported her household and community. In addition, she worked at Pickle King in Paterson, continuing to show the determination and resilience that defined her life. She was not afraid of hard work, and she understood that honest labor is one of the many ways a person builds a meaningful life. Her example teaches that dignity can be found in every honest task when it is done with heart.

Sue was also a longtime and active member of Northside Chapel Church in Paterson, where she faithfully worshiped since the 1960s. Her church family knew her as someone dependable, warm, and grounded in her faith. She believed in the power of prayer, the comfort of fellowship, and the importance of living a life that reflected Christian values. Her presence in the church was not passive. It was active, committed, and sincere. She helped build a spiritual community through her consistency and devotion, and she served as an example of what it means to walk with God in daily life.

One of the most beautiful things about Sue was the way she embraced simple joys. She loved to laugh, and her laughter was a gift that could brighten even the heaviest day. She enjoyed playing cards and singing old songs around the table with close family, creating moments that became treasured memories. She enjoyed walking, though she always had a car, and that detail speaks to her personality in a way that is both charming and real. She was practical, spirited, and full of life. She knew how to enjoy herself, and she made ordinary moments feel special. She understood that joy does not always come from grand occasions. Sometimes it comes from a song, a shared meal, a card game, or the sound of family laughter echoing through a room.

Sue’s life was a message to everyone around her that strength and tenderness can live in the same heart. She showed that being wise does not mean being distant, and being loving does not mean being weak. She was a woman who gave generously, loved deeply, and stood firmly in her truth. She carried herself with a quiet power that inspired others to keep going, keep believing, and keep loving. Her life reminds us that the people who influence us most are often those who lead with humility and serve with consistency.

Though her earthly journey has ended, Sue’s influence continues in the lives of her children, grandchildren, siblings, church family, and all who were blessed to know her. Her story is one of perseverance, faith, and love that refused to quit. She leaves behind not only memories, but lessons. She taught the value of family, the importance of laughter, the strength found in faith, and the beauty of living with purpose. She was a woman whose life spoke loudly even when her voice was soft, and her legacy will continue to speak for years to come.

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On Friday, August 28, 2026, Claudette L. “Sue” Thompson departed this life and traded labor for reward.

She was preceded in death by her parents; Ida Mae Mann and William Mack Thompson, sons; Dennis Thompson, Leigh Hammond, and Ronald Thompson, daughter; Denise Thompson, grandson; Marlon Trip, and devoted life partner; Robert L. Hammond.

Sue will be lovingly remembered by her children; Guy Hammond and Veronica Thompson, who carry forward her memory with pride and gratitude, her beloved grandchildren; Keisha, Marlon, Kerrie, Shanika, Tasha, LeQuia, Renee, Naisa, Khai, Shaina, Jamel, Sosha, Panama, and K’dar, siblings; Julia, Willy Jr., Charles, Stanley, Ida, Vernon, Patricia, Wilma, Marsha, and David, son in law; Roderick McDuffie, and a host of other relatives, friends, and church family who were blessed to know her. Her family tree is a testament to the many lives she touched, and her love remains woven into each branch.

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Today, we honor Claudette L. Thompson, Sue, with gratitude for the life she lived and the love she shared. We remember her as a mother, grandmother, sister, church member, worker, and friend. We celebrate her funny spirit, her wise counsel, and her loving heart. We give thanks for the time we had with her, and we carry forward the example she set. Her life was a blessing, her memory is a treasure, and her impact will remain.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

Acknowledgements & Obituary

Selection

Words of Comfort

Rev. Sheila Holmes

Recessional

Final Disposition

Cedar Lawn Crematory

200 McLean Blvd

Paterson, New Jersey

The Magic of A Mother's Touch

*There's magic in mother's touch,
And sunshine in her smile
There's love in everything she does
To make our lives worthwhile
We can find both love and courage
Just by looking in her eyes
Her laughter is a source of joy,
Her words are warm and wise
There is a kindness and compassion
To be found in her embrace
And we see the light of Heaven
Shining from a mother's face.*

-Author unknown

Acknowledgment

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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