

In Loving Memory of

A color portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a red, long-sleeved, button-down shirt and large hoop earrings. The background is a warm, textured brown.

Esther Jean Thompson

Sunrise: April 24, 1934

Sunset: November 4, 2019

Service

Saturday, November 16, 2019 - 2:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary


Esther Jean Thompson, beloved second child of James “Buster”, aka “Bubba” Goodhope and Dorothy Goodhope. She left this world, but not our hearts on November 4, 2019. Born on April 24, 1934, “Lady Esther” as she was lovingly known was preceded in passing by her brother and sisters, Alice Mangrum, Dorothy Smalls and Lindsey Goodhope.

Lady Esther Jean was born in New Rochelle, New York. Eventually the Goodhopes moved to New York City, Harlem, where Esther graduated from Mabel Dean Bacon High School. Esther at one point aspired to be a songstress. With her lovely face, voice and knockout figure she took all these beautiful qualities to the legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem on Amateur Night with nuances from Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and especially Sarah Vaughn. She won second place singing my *Funny Valentine*, to the pride of the Goodhope clan.

In the 1950's, Esther married Theodore Thompson which produced the beginning of the Thompson clan. Her beloved son, Teddy Thompson sadly left this world in 1987.

In the early 60's, Esther studied and became a mixologist, working in many befamed bars in Harlem such as: Smalls Paradise, Showmans, The Baby Grand, Lundys, Palm Cafe, Top Club, 721 Club, Sings Lounge, and a host of others. Esther Jean is survived by: her mourning beloved siblings, brother, John Goodhope; cousin, Fanny Still; children, Johnny, Micheal, Albert, Miles, Debra and Raquel Thompson; grands, Kim, Theo, Crystal, Rashawn and Paris; great grands, Ross and Kyree; with a host of family and friends including sister-in-law, Mildred; nieces, Pamela and Janice Goodhope, IradiECE Gaskin, Juaheeda and Gayle Mangrum; and nephews, George Smalls, and Christopher Mangrum.

In loving memory we say farewell to the beautiful, vivacious spirit, Esther Jean Thompson. Child, sister, mother and finally great grandmother and friend to so many who loved and revered her.



Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Final Disposition

*Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York*



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



Acknowledgement

In parting as Esther would say on many occasion: "Thank you my loves". The Thompson family would like to give special mention to Carroll Bevaurd (Duke) Baldwin, father and friend, Uncle Jim a kind and caring spirit. And a very very grateful mention to Turk Esu Oya also Duval and Andrea Naughton of Unity Funeral Chapels for their considerate patience and kindness during this time of mourning thank you so very much.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833

Clifford V. James, President & CEO
www.unityfuneralchapels.com
email: unityfc@aol.com

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