

*In Loving Memory of*



*Alexander L. Thornley, Jr.*

Sunrise: August 10, 1927

Sunset: November 4, 2019

Service

*Monday, November 18, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.*

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

## Obituary

**Alexander Leonard Thornley**, a respected veteran, retired United States Postal Service man, and devoted family patriarch has passed at the age of 92 years old.



Born and raised in Harlem, New York, during the historic Harlem Renaissance, on August 10, 1927, Alexander was known to many as “Al”. He was the youngest of three children.

Al went to high school in the heart of Manhattan at Rhodes Preparatory School, believed in education, and supported his grandchildren through every milestone event in their personal educational journeys.

In 1945, Alexander was a joint service member, proudly serving in both the United States Air Force and United States Army. He served two tours of active duty and was stationed in Germany. After active military service, Al contributed over 41 years of government service working for the United States Post Office as a railway mail clerk and a mail clerk. He retired and spent his remaining years with family and friends.

Al was very close to his sister Clem and devoted to his mother Essie. Much like his mother, Al was a quiet man with a calm demeanor. He was a man of few words whose presence alone said much. Al was a fun-loving father who had a deep admiration and love for his children, art, music, and food. He particularly enjoyed watching the cooking shows. Al appreciated the time he spent with his children and shared his numerous passions by teaching them.

Known as an avid player of board games, cards and puzzles, Al would challenge anyone to a match. However, of all his countless hobbies and passions, Al’s favorite was music. His joy for music and his soulful singing flowed through his family and was a notable staple in the home. Al sang to his children and grandchildren his favorite Frank Sinatra songs while eating any one of his favorite Haagen-Dazs ice cream flavors. Al was known for having an amazing voice. He could be caught on any given day humming or singing the soothing tunes of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Barbara Streisand, Ella Fitzgerald, Sara Vaughn, Nancy Wilson, Johnny Mathis, and a host of others.

For those that knew Al, they knew he was a sharp dresser, always clean cut, debonair, and dapper.

Al spent his last days in his hometown of Harlem, NY, at Amsterdam House where he passed away on Monday, November 4, 2019.

He will be remembered and forever loved for his warm demeanor and kind heart, and will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all that knew him.

Al is survived by his wife, Dolores Ricco Thornley; his three children and their spouses, Linda Lopez (Francisco), Alexander Thornley (Vanessa), and Deidre Pate (Kim); from his wife, he is survived by her children, Andrea Pressley, Anthony Ricco (Ayanna), Suzanne Ricco-Lightfoot, John Ricco, and Amanda Davis (Kenneth); combined with the Thornley and Ricco families, Al is survived by 28 grandchildren and 41 great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his daughter, Alexis Edwards; mother, Essie (Green) Brown; father, Leonard Thornley; and older sisters, Gloria Thornley and Clementine Thornley.

Order of Service

Processional

Invocation.....Rev. Dr. LW Hardaway

Selection....."I Never Could Have Made It"

Scriptural Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 46.....Nailah Ricco-Brown

New Testament - Philippians 4:4-8.....Edward "Maurice" Pressley

Words of Reflection.....Family & Friends

Obituary.....Alexis Garner

Remarks.....Anthony L. Ricco, Esq.

Selection....."Amazing Grace"

Eulogy.....Rev. LW Hardaway

Viewing

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery  
Calverton, New York



## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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