

Celebrating the Life of



Thomasena Alexander

"Aunt Tom Tom"

Sunrise
August 9, 1929

Sunset
May 20, 2021

Thursday, May 27, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.

CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME

256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Alfred Steele, Officiating

J.E. Williams, Organist

Obituary

Thomasena “Aunt Tom Tom” Alexander (née Wilson), 91 departed this life peacefully at St. Joseph’s Wayne Hospital in Wayne on Thursday May 20th, 2021.

Born in Bishopville, South Carolina to the late Samuel Thomas and Emma Alexander, she was adopted as a baby by Carrie Wilson. Thomasena lived in Bishopville until her sister Katie sent for her to move to Baltimore, Maryland when she was a teenager. She later moved to Paterson, NJ to find a job in the industrial city known for its silk factories.

Ms. Alexander was a resident of Paterson for 79 years. She lived at 38 Plum Street for 33 years where she was a founder of the first unofficial neighborhood watch. Affectionately called ‘Tommie’, ‘Big Beef’, ‘Tommie Cat’ and “Tom C” by friends, the nickname, “Aunt Tom Tom” is the one she loved the most. Thomasena worked as a laundress at Topps Cleaners in Hackensack, NJ. She later became a machine operator at Marcel Paper Mill in Elmwood Park, NJ before retiring in 1996.

In the 1940s, Thomasena spent many nights swing dancing at the famed Savoy Ballroom in Harlem. Her kicks, spins and drops made her a regular in the swing dance community. She was a griot who loved telling stories about her life growing up in the Jim Crow south and the lives of her and her friends after they migrated up north. Thomasena was an avid collector who saved hundreds of obituaries of loved ones, friends and people from the community. She kept a journal where logged her daily thoughts, prayers, lottery results and the coming and goings of her children and grandchildren. Her summer days were spent sitting on the porch waving at passersby, giving some life advice or offering a cold beverage. Aunt Tom Tom was the Queen of the Atlantic City Bus rides and always danced in the aisle to her favorites, James Brown and Ray Charles. She loved attending special events at the National Action Network and listened to Rev. Dr. Al Sharpton daily radio show regularly. Her favorite quotes/sayings were, “Talk to me if you can” when she wanted to confirm how she was feeling or what she was saying. “You don’t wanna mess with me!”, to let people know she had two godsons in law enforcement. Or “I love you and there’s nothing you can do about it” as confirmation of her unconditional love.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Katie Statham Brown and Geneva Wilson Overstreet.

Surviving are her daughter, Valerie Wilson of Paterson; son, Aaron “Tojo” (Marlene) Wilson of Woodland Park; grandchildren, Aisha “Holly” Wilson of Teaneck, Travoy (Jennifer) Wilson of Warner Robins, G.A.; Emmiah Wilson, Ashanti Wilson and Janquelle Melton all of Woodland Park; nieces, Ernestine Hunter, Carrie (Jack) Wortham both of Baltimore, M.D.; and special niece, Thomasina Statham of Harlem, N.Y.; goddaughters Sheena Freeland and Delores Freeland both of Paterson, godsons, Thomas Conyers of Paterson and John (Kimeko) Jones of Wayne; #1 nieces, Janet Jones Josephine Jones, Delores Freeland and Sheena Freeland; and special nephews, Hector “Man” Hernandez Jr, Larry”Ree Ree” Hayward Jr. and Iziah “Scooter” Jones.

The family would like to express our thanks for the wonderful help and care given by Preakness Healthcare Center in Wayne, NJ.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection
Michelle Tobias

Scripture Readings - Karen Freeland
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer

Selection
Paulette Newby

Acknowledgments

Reflections
(2min) Family and Friends
Aisha Wilson

Reflections of Life
Ora Jane Bell

Selection

Words of Comfort
Rev. Alfred Steele
Seminary Baptist Church, Paterson, NJ

Recessional

Interment
George Washington Memorial Park
234 Paramus Road
Paramus, New Jersey

Mothers Love

You should tell your Mother, you love her so,
before God take her by the hand and say, it's time to go.

If you wait too long, those words she may never hear,
all those tears will flow and no one will really care.

Tell her you love her from the start,
and say it like you mean it, straight from the heart.
Give her flowers, while she can smell them now, not on her coffin
when you have to look down and bow.

Sometimes when she argues, let her have her say.
You know Mothers, they always want their way.

Being a Mother is not a easy task,
they have so much to do and always have to do it fast.

A Mother's love is like no other.
She shares her love with everyone, and it's like no other.

Sometimes when things get hard and look real dark,
Your Mother shows up and gives love straight from the heart.

She will be with you through thick & thin.

A Mother will love you to the very end.

Always love her and show her respect
because some walk around acting like rejects.
Sometimes sneak up behind her and give her a hug.

Show her your emotions and show her that love.

To have a Mother, you are truly blessed
because everyone knows, mother knows best.

Written By
Valerie Wilson

Acknowledgment

The family of the late **Thomasena Alexander** 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.

Professional Services Provided By
CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOMES

Caring for the Community Since 1937

256 Rosa Parks Blvd. • Paterson, NJ 07501 • (973) 278-6330

143 Myrtle Avenue • Passaic, NJ 07055 • (973) 779-1892

To send online condolences, visit www.braggfuneralhome.com



www.honoryou.com

