

*In Loving Memory of*



*Keith D. Thomas, Sr.*

Sunrise  
April 8, 1959

Sunset  
June 11, 2021

Friday, July 2, 2021 - 10AM

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

# *Obituary*

**Keith Douglas Thomas, Sr.** was born on April 8, 1959 to the late Cynthia and Otis Thomas at Harlem Hospital in New York City.

Keith was raised in New York City and educated in the New York City Public School System. He spent his teenage and early adult years growing up in the Bronx at 1515 McCombs Road. On McCombs Road he could be found hanging out, just shooting the breeze, or carrying shopping carts up a 7th floor walk up for his elders. He could also be found getting scolded or reprimanded, because he was hard headed and stubborn. He always wanted the last word, believed that he was right, and always walked to the beat of his own drum no matter the consequence.

In the early 1980's his headstrong behavior and need for speed landed him in a world of trouble, which resulted in a 20+ year incarceration. Though he was incarcerated, he never let it derail his fervor for life and his family. During his incarceration he converted to Islam and became a Muslim and given his proper Muslim name "Rashid". He grounded himself and was able to graduate from Ulster Community College and acquired an Associates Degree in Applied Science. He used his life experiences to help mentor other young men.

In 2005, Keith was released from the New York State Penitentiary. Although he had been out of touch with the outside world for more than two decades, he found his footing and found employment at The New York City Department Of Homeless Services where he worked hard for five years. After separating from employment with the Department of Homeless Services, he became the Supervisor at Project Renewal, a shelter for mentally ill formerly incarcerated men. He was a man devoted to serving the underserved. He wanted to be the voice of reason to other people coming behind him. He let it be known that his poor choices in life were the example of what not to do and highlighted that second chances were possible.

Keith was a loyal friend, a helper in your time of need, a protector, a counselor, a confidant, a son, a brother, a nephew, a cousin, an uncle, a husband, and most importantly a father. He loved his children beyond measure and worked tirelessly to create an individual and unique bond with each of his children. He often referred to his children as his greatest accomplishment, the one thing he had gotten right in life!

Keith leaves to cherish his memory and continue his legacy: his wife, Denise Thomas; his sons, Keith Jr. (Oceana), Juebbbar (Akosua), Marlon (Iyana), Kareem, Eric, Curtis, Jafar, Aaron, Andre, and Sean; his daughters, Ebony (Keith), Cheteara, Shatisha, Tawanna, Natifah, Ashunte, and Chrisheena; his goddaughter, Tasha Jones; a special daughter that he took under his wing as his own, Tre; and daughter-in-law, Monay; (two sons who preceded him in death, Douglas and Kenji); two sisters, Charisse and Denise; three brothers, Kevin, Calvin, and Doc; 34 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; and a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

# *Order of Service*

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Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

**INTERMENT:**  
Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey

# *Broken Chain*

We little knew that morning that  
God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly,  
in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,  
you did not go alone;  
for part of us went with you  
the day God called you Home.

You left us peaceful memories,  
your love is still our guide;  
and though we cannot see you,  
you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,  
and nothing seems the same;  
but as God calls us one by one,  
the chain will link again.

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## *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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