

Celebrating The Life of

A portrait of Nathaniel O. Thomas, an older man with glasses, a light blue shirt, a patterned tie, and dark suspenders. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a blue sky on the left and a bright yellow sun on the right, creating a warm, golden glow.

Nathaniel O. Thomas

November 25, 1943 - November 26, 2021

Saturday, December 11, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.

Community Baptist Church
224 First Street, Englewood, New Jersey
Rev. Lester Taylor, Officiating

Obituary

Nathaniel Orr Thomas (a.k.a. Nate) was born to Nathaniel and Juliaette Elois Thomas on November 25, 1943 in Englewood, New Jersey. He was the only child born of this union.

Nate attended Englewood schools and Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. He was not only a business owner but taught Auto Mechanics and Graphic Arts at Dwight Morrow High School in the early 1980s. He was also Owner and CEO of Nate's Auto Body Shop, Nate's Towing and Nate's Auto Transport and Estimating Service formerly located in Englewood, NJ, Hackensack, NJ and Ocala, FL. Nate's companies serviced General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC), Toyota Motor Credit and the community. He also transported vehicles to different parts of the country including the vehicles of 'snowbirds' from New Jersey to Florida and back. Nate, his employees and subcontractors moved over 1,000 vehicles per month.

Nate enjoyed motorcycling with his wife, Carolyn, where they traveled many places throughout the United States. He also collected model trains, enjoyed photography, loved attending jazz concerts, listening to music and cooking his famous BBQ ribs. If he wasn't cooking his ribs he found a place to eat chopped BBQ or a slab of ribs. He loved watching westerns and old sitcoms like the Andy Griffith Show and Archie Bunker. Some of his favorite pastimes included mentoring young potential business owners, neighborhood youth and helping the poor. Nate was also known by some of his famous sayings, like "I might not be able to keep the smell out of ya nose but I can sho nuff keep the taste out of ya mouth!" And last, but not least Nate had a very special fur baby companion in his life - a cat named, Osca who passed away in April.

Nate's childhood church was Galilee United Methodist Church in Englewood, NJ. Later, he transferred his membership and became a member

of Lady Lake United Methodist Church in Lady Lake, FL. It was there where he organized and led the Men's Ministry and was also active in various other ministries. Nate also loved hearing Pastor Lester W. Taylor's messages at Community Baptist Church. He called the sermons "take out" because he could apply the messages to his life.

In his youth, Nate married Diane Hazelton (deceased) and born of this union was Nathaniel, Jr. and Kimberly. In 1995, Nate married Carolyn Johnson Burton and embraced her children James and Sheri' as his own even before their marriage.

Nate leaves behind four children, Nate Thomas, Jr.; James (Lisa) Burton; Kimberly (Michael) Wisniewski; and Sheri' (Owen) Blands-Pearson. He also leaves behind eleven beloved grandchildren, Arionne and Tiffany; Jelijah, Niyesse, Dyanté, Alana and Alaylah; Emily and Chloe; and Jordyn and Justin, in addition to five great grandchildren: Jasmine, A'zeriah, Tristan, Kalais and Anaiah. He was a special 'uncle' figure to Clarence and Kenny Rawlings, Stephanie Bowens, Felicia Robbins and Maurice Lang who called him "Unc."

Nate often voiced his gratitude towards the doctors and nursing staff who walked with him through the many clinical trials, cancer treatments and hospice care over the past seven years. Nate was preceded in death by his father and mother. His family and friends are all grateful for the love, laughter, wisdom and fond memories he has given. He will be missed dearly by those who knew and loved him.

The family asks in lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at www.lls.org or to Vitas Hospice at www.vitas.com or Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center at www.mskcc.org.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional of Clergy and Family

Invocation

Solo – How Great Thou Art

Old Testament Scripture -- Psalm 23
James Burton

New Testament Scripture -- 1st Thess. 4:13-18
Lisa Burton

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection – The Prayer

Expressions of Condolences

Reflections

Nate Thomas, Jr. and Kimberly Wisniewski
Arionne Thomas
Rev. Harris Holloway

Reading of the Obituary
Owen and Sheri' Blands-Pearson

Selection – Goin' Up Yonder

Message of Hope
Rev. Dr. Lester W. Taylor, Jr.
Community Baptist Church

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

George Washington Memorial Park
Paramus, New Jersey

Nate's Words of Wisdom!

*There's always a light at the end of the tunnel,
just hope it's not a freight train!*

*You are so nice, wait till they see you,
they will just love you, 'cause you are so nice!*

*You're all right with me, the heck with
what go mamma says about you!*

You sooo niüice!

If you don't have much ya can't do much!

*If you're gonna work or nothing,
might as well stay home the pay is the same!*

*May not be able to keep the smell out yo
nose but sure to keep the taste out yo mouth!*

I'm gonna put a bye-bye on ya!! See ya later!

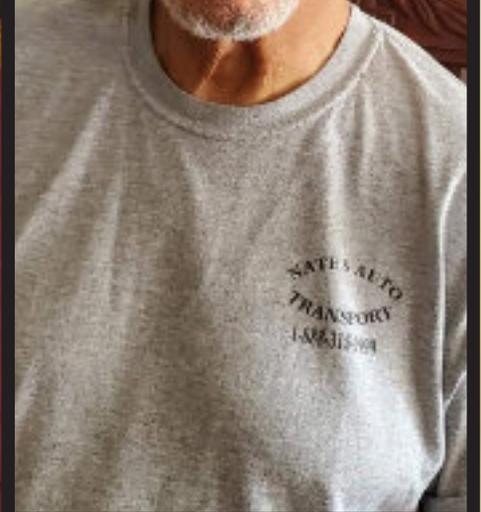
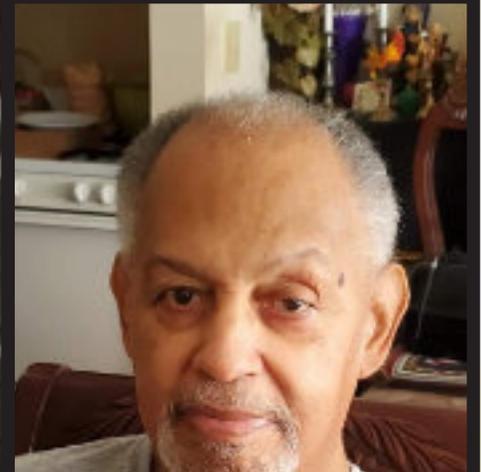
Good food, good meat, great God let's eat!

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me,
please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name,
and took me by the hand;
The angel said my place was ready,
In Heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.
But when I walked through Heaven's Gates,
I felt so much at home,
For God looked down,
Smiled at me,
And told me "Welcome Home."
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.*

By Erica Shea Liupaeter (edited)

*To my one and only true love,
I remain eternally yours forever. I love you madly!
Your wife,
Your friend
Your Doll Baby*



Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Pallbearers

Nate Thomas, Jr.

Owen Blands-Pearson

Damian (Chi Chi) Harris

James Burton

Dyante Burton

Maurice Lang

Acknowledgment

The family of the late **Nathaniel O. Thomas** 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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