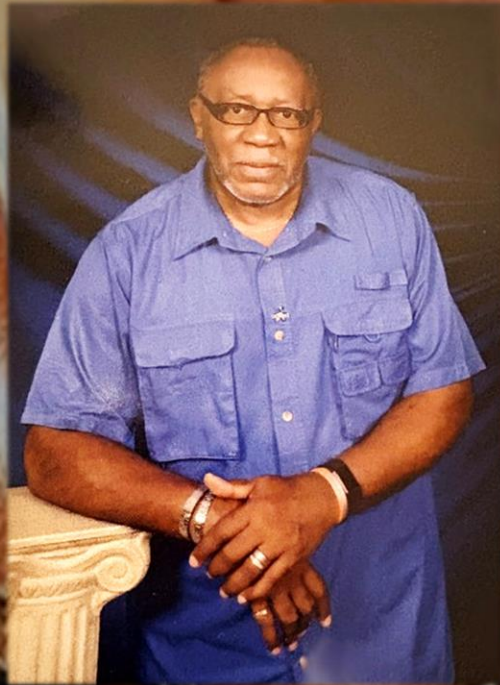




Celebrate My Life

Remember me with love and joy,
Let gratitude fill your heart.
Thankful for the time we had,
Gone...yet not apart.

If we measured life in moments,
Not in months or years,
I lived a hundred lifetimes,
Loved by all who hold me dear.

I hope you'll find your smile,
And generously speak my name.
Share stories and my heart,
Your love for life unchanged.
Celebrate the life I lived,
I will be watching from above.
I am always with you,
Sending you my light and love.



HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Stewards & Trustees, Bethel AME Church
Tommie Cox Fred Ford Willie Harris
Levi Houston John Levin Joe Johnson
Gentle Little Jerome Campbell Leroy Jones
Willie Webster Frankie McGill

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Joe Johnson Lester Thompson Levi Houston
Frankie McGill Brian Harris Christen Moore
Geano Thompson Lionel Thompson, Jr.

HONORARY FLORAL BEARERS

Stewardess Board #1, Bethel AME Church

ACTIVE FLORAL BEARERS

Ushers, Bethel AME Church

THE SERVICE OF COMMITTAL & INTERMENT

Tallahassee National Cemetery
5015 Apalachee Parkway * Tallahassee, Florida 32311

REPAST

Bethel AME Church Fellowship Hall

THE FAMILY'S MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

We, the family of *Lionel Henry Thompson, Sr.*, express our heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming love, support and kindness shown to us during this time of loss. We are deeply touched by the many prayers, comforting words, visits, phone calls, floral arrangements, and other thoughtful expressions of sympathy. Your compassion and generosity have brought us strength and comfort when we needed it most. Our prayer for you is that God richly blesses each of you for the love you have shared and the support you have given.

Services Entrusted To:


1215 North Jefferson Street • P. O. Box 425
Monticello, Florida 32345
Phone: (850) 997-5553 • Fax: (850) 997-4706
4006 Crawfordville Road • Tallahassee, Florida 32305
Phone: (850) 842-1950 • Fax: (850) 942-2375
Alfonza "Al" Hall • George Clayton
Amy Davis • Damien Davis
Demarien Hawk • Isaac Miller, Jr.
Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Tillman... Making A Difference Since 1931

A Celebration of Homecoming

FOR
Brother

Lionel Henry Thompson, Sr.



MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

501 WEST ORANGE AVENUE * TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32310

The Right Reverend Dr. Marvin C. Zanders, II

PRESIDING PRELATE

The Reverend Dr. Carlton Taylor, Presiding Elder

The Reverend Dr. Michael B. Price I, Senior Minister

OFFICIATING

REFLECTIONS OF LIFE

Lionel Henry Thompson, Sr., affectionately known as “**Drysdale**,” was born on June 26, 1946, in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. He was the youngest of six sons born to Franklin and Gertrude (Todman) Thompson. Raised in a close-knit and loving community, **Lionel** received his education through the Virgin Islands public school system and proudly graduated from Charlotte Amalie High School with the Class of 1964.

From an early age, **Lionel** demonstrated exceptional athletic ability and a deep passion for baseball. As a standout pitcher in the Virgin Islands, he was invited by his coach, Virgin Islands baseball legend and former Baltimore Orioles catcher Elrod Hendricks, to play in the Virgin Islands Winter League. During this time, he competed against future Baseball Hall of Famers Roberto Clemente, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, and Orlando Cepeda, whom he often cited as his favorite players. A memorable conversation with Clemente led to an opportunity to play with the Pittsburgh Pirates minor league organization, where he spent six months pursuing his dream of professional baseball.

Lionel later relocated to Tallahassee, Florida, where he established a successful career in retail management as a Store Manager with Eckerd Drug Store on the city’s southside. He subsequently dedicated more than 27 years of service to the State of Florida Department of Management Services, serving as Supervisor of Property Management. On June 30, 2008, he proudly retired after a distinguished and faithful career.

A devoted husband and family man, **Lionel** shared a loving marriage with Debra Dickey Thompson, his cherished wife and devoted companion, with whom he built a life filled with love, laughter, faith, and treasured memories.

Known affectionately as “**Pops**” by his children, **Lionel’s** love for sports extended far beyond his playing days. He participated in semi-professional baseball, coached championship girls’ and women’s softball teams, and served as an umpire for intramural and collegiate athletics for more than forty years. Among his many accomplishments, he was especially proud of achieving Umpire Emeritus Status, a testament to his dedication and excellence in the sport.

Lionel was a faithful and devoted member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, Florida, where he served diligently on the Transportation Ministry for many years. His commitment to serving God and helping others reflected his generous spirit, steadfast faith, and love for his church family.

Throughout his life, **Lionel** was admired for his strength of character, unwavering devotion to his family, and enduring passion for baseball. A loyal fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers, he enjoyed spending countless hours watching baseball games and following political affairs. He deeply valued time spent with family and friends and found great joy in the companionship of his beloved pet, Bodhi. His presence brought comfort, wisdom, laughter, and guidance to all who were blessed to know him.

Lionel leaves to cherish his memory his **beloved wife**: Debra Dickey Thompson; **children**: Lionel (Shavette) Thompson, Jr., Beverly, Lester (Sandra), Lynnel (Brian), Sonya, Suzette, Suzanne, Shameka, Jasmine, and Joe; **grandchildren**: Christian, Ashley, J’Nisha, Mekhi, Kyra, J’Mia, Quartez, Aaliyah, and Nakevian; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, church family, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: Franklin and Gertrude Thompson; and his brothers: Franklin, Walter, Eugene, Aubrey, and Verne Thompson.

Though our hearts are saddened by his passing, we rejoice in the legacy he leaves behind—a legacy of faith, love, resilience, service, and devotion to family. His impact will continue to live on through the countless lives he touched, the wisdom he shared, and the memories that will forever be treasured.

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”
Matthew 25:23 (KJV)



ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude..... “*When We All Get to Heaven*”

Processional..... Pastor, Clergy, Officers & Family

The Parting Glance & Seating of Family..... The *Tillman* Staff

Hymn of Celebration..... “*Blessed Assurance*”

Prayer Reverend Dr. Marian Ellis
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

SCRIPTURE READINGS:
Old & New Testaments..... Reverend David Williams

Selection..... “*Order My Steps*”

REFLECTIONS & TRIBUTES:
As A Church Member Brother Edward Moragne
As A Friend Brother William Conrad McCray

Resolutions & Acknowledgements..... Brother Darryl E. Jones
STEWARDS PRO TEMP

Selection..... “*Total Praise*”

EULOGY Reverend Michael B. Price I

Recessional..... “*I’ll Fly Away*”

