23rd Psalm

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 paths 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

Ahmad Leonard
Jamar Leonard
Parker Brimidge
Nicholas Robbins
Marcus Robbins
David Banks

Honorary Pallbearers

William Leonard
Leon Pryor
Wilbur Pryor
Robert Merriweather
Larry Jones

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!
- The family of Willie James Thomas

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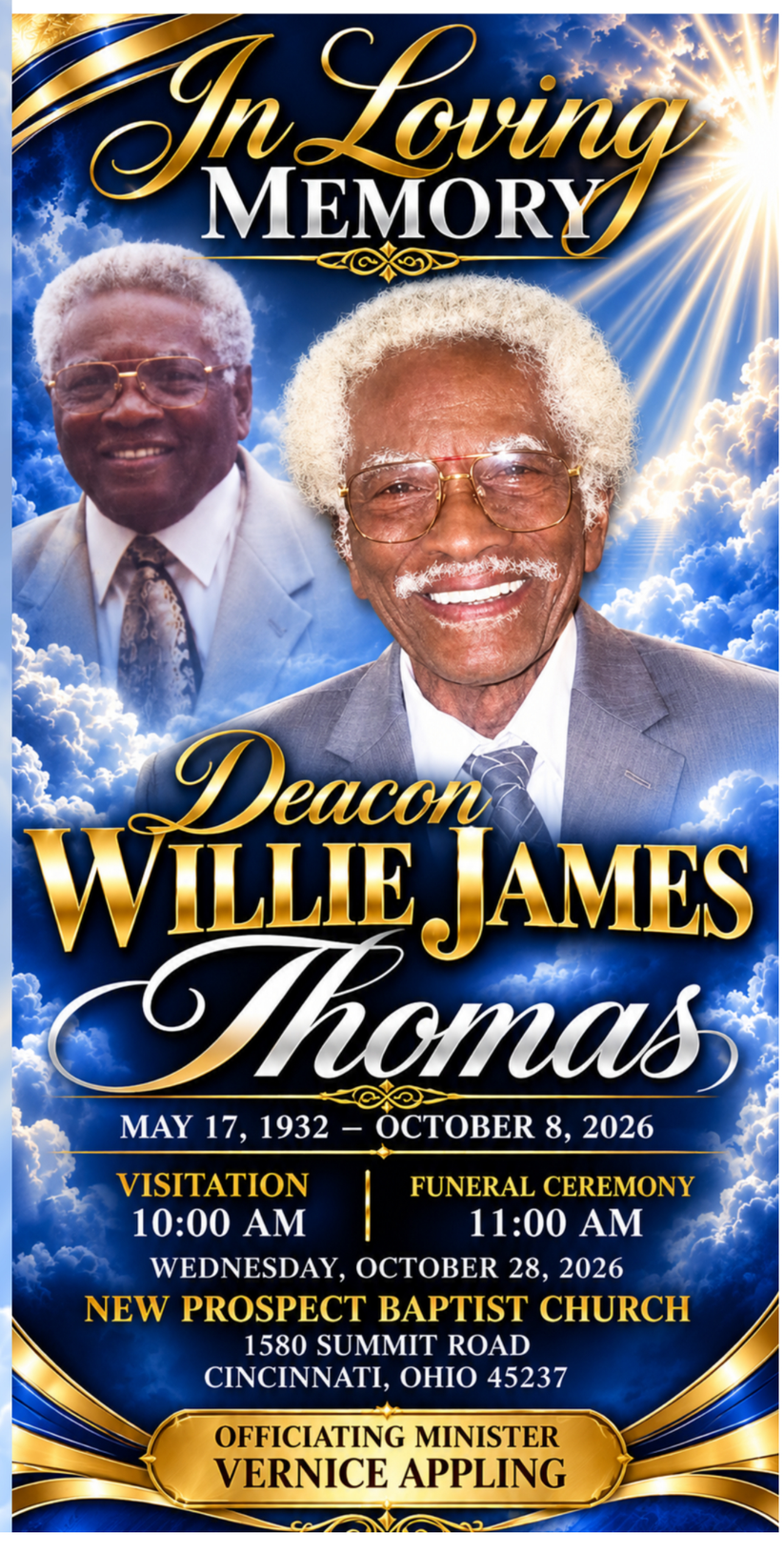

Obituary

In Memory of Deacon Willie James Thomas

Deacon Willie James Thomas was born on May 17, 1932, in Cochran, Georgia, to the late Gus Thomas and Hester (Williams) Thomas. He was one of 13 children.

Willie worked for four years as a vehicle loader for the Bauch Mouchet Company in Atlanta, Georgia, until 1954, when he joined the United States Army. He eventually moved to Ohio, where he met and married Pearleen Pryor in 1970.

After their marriage, Willie and Pearleen settled in Avondale and joined Southern Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend James E. Milton. Willie was an active and dedicated member of the church. He faithfully drove the church bus every other Sunday and served on the Usher Board for 47 years. He also served as a Trustee for 12 years and as a Deacon for 14 years. His commitment to his church and his faith was evident throughout his life.

Willie was a hardworking man who believed in staying busy and making the most of every opportunity. Throughout his lifetime, he held several jobs, including working as a truck driver for the City of Cincinnati and working for Goodyear Tire and Kelly Tire.

Determined to further his education, Willie attended evening school after work, studying diligently until he graduated from Princeton High School and earned his high school diploma. He later joined CG&E, where he worked as an OSHA inspector at Beckjord Power Station. After 13 years of service, he retired from that position.

Loving retirement, however, did not mean slowing down for Willie. True to his hardworking spirit, he studied for and earned his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). He then took a part-time job driving a school bus for Cincinnati Public Schools and also drove tour buses for Washington Limousine.

In 2019, Willie and Pearleen united with New Prospect Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Damon Lynch III, continuing their journey of faith and fellowship.

Obituary

On October 8, 2026, at the age of 94, Deacon Willie James Thomas answered the Lord's call and entered eternal rest, where there is no more weeping or pain.

Willie was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Pearleen; his son, Anthony K. Pryor; his grandson, Christopher M. Pryor; and his 12 siblings: Claude Thomas, Lucious Thomas, Henery Thomas, Annie Bell Farrow, Estella Landsey, Soloman Thomas, Tommie J. Thomas, Rudy L. Colton, Gus Thomas, Elizabeth Galimore, Howard Thomas, and Bonnie D. Windley.

He leaves to cherish his precious memory his son, Stephen E. Thomas; his two daughters, Wanda (William) Leonard and Joyce Robbins; his granddaughter, Toni D. Smith; his grandsons, Ahmad Leonard, Nicholas Robbins, Jamar (Becky) Leonard, Marcus Robbins, and Jamel Thomas; along with a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Deacon Willie James Thomas will be remembered for his unwavering faith, dedication to his church, strong work ethic, perseverance, and love for his family. His life was a testament to the value of hard work, lifelong learning, and faithful service. Though he will be deeply missed, his legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.







Order of Service

Parting View . . . . . Immediate Family

Prayer . . . . . Deacon Roger Anderson

Scripture . . . . . Deacon Michael Wells
Pslams 23 & John 3:16

Selection . . . . . .

Acknowledgements . . . . . Deborah Carney

Remarks . . . . . 2 Minutes Please

Special Remarks . . . . . Deacons of the Church

Selection . . . . . .

Obituary . . . . . Read Silently

Eulogy . . . . . Pastor Damon Lynch III

Benediction . . . . . Pastor Damon Lynch III

Recessional . . . . . Clergy, Family & Friends

Final Resting Place

Spring Grove Cemetery
4521 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Repast

New Prospect Baptist Church
1580 Summit Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45237