



The 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 for ever.*



CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF

JoAnn THOMAS

Sunrise
SEPTEMBER 11, 1935
Sunset
OCTOBER 5, 2024

Acknowledgements
*The family of JoAnn Thomas acknowledges with sincere appreciation
every thought and act of kindness expressed to us during this time of bereavement.
We will always keep you in our prayers.
May God continue to bless you.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024
Viewing 11:00 am | Service 12:00pm
GABRIEL D. GLOVER FUNERAL HOME
146 E. 2nd Ave., Roselle NJ 07203
Prophetess Tiffany L. Thomas-Jones, Officiating



Professional services entrusted to
146 E. 2nd Ave Roselle NJ 07203
908-380-2960 • GLOVERFH.COM
Gabriel D. Glover, Manager NJ Lic. No. 5273





Joan "A Gift from God"

You were our Lioness. A gift from God
And with this gift, we've been blessed.
Having you present gave this pride a ROCK.

Your layers didn't stop.
So the all in you, who stood 5'2"
With grit resonating from your core
Loved us more

And for the mistakes we made
You've never loved us any less
You stayed committed to your cause
Which was to nurture our strengths
And nature our flaws

We applaud you for your tenacity
JoAnn when you were feeling nice
Joan when things got nasty
As a mother you've surpassed grand
You were Great Great
All in the hands of fate
And until the end

You continued to be our friend
Who didn't mind lending an ear
Or brushing off your shoulders
so we can lean on them
All part of your rock
that's been keeping us stead

Written by Johnnica Freeland

Psalm 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.





In Loving Memory of

Jo Ann THOMAS

SEPTEMBER 11, 1935
OCTOBER 5, 2024



Order of Service

(Officiating Prophetess Tiffany L. Thomas-Jones)

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Pastor's Angels

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Bishop Arthur Jenkins

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament

Psalm 23

New Testament

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8:

Deacon William Woods

SOLO

Samantha Woods

OBITUARY & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nia M. Brown

REMARKS

Please limit to 2 minutes

POEM

Johnnica Freeland

EULOGY

Prophetess Tiffany L. Thomas-Jones

RECESSIONAL/BENEDICTION

Prophetess Tiffany L. Thomas-Jones



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

JoAnn (Minus) Thomas

JoAnn Thomas (aka, "Mommy," "Grammie," "Old Lady", "Joan," "Joanie Joan," "Ma") was born to the late Benjamin Minus and Lucille Oates Butler on September 11, 1935 in Jersey City, New Jersey. The family moved to Potters Crossing in Edison, where her grandmother, Sarah Sally Oates resided. JoAnn married Raymond Thomas, Sr. in June 1953 and had her first child the same year. JoAnn had a strong personality and witty demeanor. She was the strongest and most resilient person most of us will ever know. With an 8th grade education, she and her husband were avid readers of all genres, social matters, and topics. True romance, detective magazines and the newspaper (especially the Home News Tribune and Star Ledger) were the staples in the house and they encouraged everyone to read. By 1968, JoAnn had her love child resulting in a total of seven (7) children. She ran a tight ship and everyone knew she wouldn't spare the rod. Most nights, dinner was only rice and beans and neck bones, but she would make sure her kids went to bed with a full stomach. Sunday was family dinner – and always with only fresh vegetables from Mr. Jack's truck and her delicious soul food, which is why we have so many chefs in our family. JoAnn loved spending time with her family, laughing, keeping it real and watching her favorite shows and movies. Her brothers and sisters were her constant support. Her oldest sister, Evangeline, died in a car accident so JoAnn never obtained her driver's license, but you wouldn't know it because she always found a way to get anywhere she needed to go, especially Menlo Park Mall (she loved looking nice-- JoAnn loved to dress and she passed that sense of style down to her children and her children's children). Her children and her grands were her whole heart. There's nothing she wouldn't do for any of them. She encouraged all of them to love each other, look out for each other and show respect. There is nothing like a mother's love. If you went to school or anywhere in the community and embarrassed her, you got it when you got home. She was honorable, had a slick tongue, and intuitiveness. She was a force to be reckoned with FOR SURE. She could cuss you out one minute and kiss you up and tell you she "loves you more" the next!

JoAnn was employed as a Cottage Training Technician and Habilitation Trainer at the Woodbridge Developmental Center for over 20 years. In the spirit of wanting to remain productive after retirement, JoAnn continued to volunteer for 12 years as a "Foster Grandparent". JoAnn loved R&B music and would blast gospel music (particularly Mahalia Jackson) and sing every Sunday while she was cooking dinner. She would make her grandchildren pick up lint from the carpet every afternoon while she and Aunt Sue watched their "stories". She insisted on hanging clothes on the line even in the dead of winter. Her hobbies were looking up numbers in her dream books, playing her scratch offs, eating sweets (especially ice cream, taffy and hard candy). She loved traveling with her family, especially her annual vacations with her sister, Sue, and their children, nieces and nephews. She always enjoyed their cruises.

JoAnn knew God was her shepherd. Her favorite scripture was Psalm 23. She recited it proudly.

JoAnn loved and lost four of her children, Joseph "Jo Jo" Todd Thomas, Elise "Lisie" Freeland, Rae Gail "Renee" Newcombe, and Jerome "Hakeem" Thomas, brothers and sisters, and grandchild, Joel Newcombe.

JoAnn leaves to treasure her memory, her daughters Carol Jean Thomas Brown and Tonya Thomas Woods (William Woods), son, Raymond Thomas, Jr., two sisters Lila Pryor and Juanita Brown; her grandchildren, Nia, Tanisha (Emmanual), William, Rasheedah, Johnnica, Omar, Raven (Quann), Raymond III (Livia), Shakirah, Shamaya, Talia, Jordan, Shameka, Daquan, Kianna; her great grand children, Courtney, Tajahnae, Sabir, TaNia, Takiyah, Nadir, Eli, Khalil, Omar, Nicole, Candance, Takaylah, TaJohn, Raymond IV, Titan, Azariah, Raelise, Omari; great great grand children, Daquan, Jr., Mariah, Ivory, Laylaneece, Isaiah, Quason, Ja'Neese, Sarina, Akiyah, and Troy and many nieces and nephews.

A life legacy is something that we leave or give to others, something that will last beyond our lifetime. JoAnn left a full and rich legacy.



tributes

"Mom, it was such a pleasure being with you every Wednesday and Thursday. We had such great times together talking about old days. You will truly be missed. Love you always, Ray." Raymond Thomas, Jr.

"Ma, I am so thankful for all the profound knowledge and wisdom you gave me when I was younger and you would begin to talk. I would say as we got older everything you said was like money in the bank and I came to respect your words. I love you mother dearest and I will truly miss you. Your baby Michelle." - Tonya Woods

"Lord, please welcome my grandmother with loving, eternal arms to the eternal banquet of joy with her departed children and loved ones. Comfort those who are left here to mourn her departure and instill faith, hope, love, joy, acceptance, and patience in our hearts. Grandma, I am beyond grateful for your time, wisdom, support, strength, profound impact, and the loving presence you always gave me and all we've shared (especially our late night talks squished in bed together), all of which will never be forgotten. You were my first and loudest cheerleader. You always encouraged me and taught me to value myself, even when I couldn't. I love you beyond words and always will. Always, your "pretty baby" (aka your first born grand)" - Nia M. Brown

"Tuesdays were our date days. Watching our court shows, Family Feud, 25 Words or Less and catching up on All the celebrity gossip Dish Nation. I can't really say what I'll miss most it's just so many things, but having you for 48 years has been truly a blessing. We've been locked in foreva! I'm the one bringing my Grammie to hang with all my Sistas. To BBQs, birthday and Anniversary parties, Englishtown, church. I'm gonna miss you so much. Old Lady you've been present through everything. I will continue to operate in love and keep us all united. I love you, but you loved me more. Grammie, you have gained your wings. I love you and your memory will live on through us forever - your fav. Nisha" - Tanisha Freeland Amilcar

"Grandma, from a little girl you always implemented strength, wisdom, and love. You taught me how to clean, cook, and be a woman. You never told me no. When I was a child you let me wear your clothes and shoes until my feet were bigger than yours. You always told me I was smart and good with kids. "You should be a teacher, Raven". You told me you were proud of me and I was so very proud of you. You save my first born. You told mommy we would all raise him together and we did. For that, I will always be thankful. I'm pretty sure Raelise gets her attitude from you. I will cherish our talks and memories forever. We are sending you hugs and kisses. Spread them around for us up there Gramps. Love you." - Raven Jenkins

"I will forever hold on to all the good times and conversations we had at 244. Love you and going to miss you. RayRay" - Raymond Thomas III

"Thank you Grandma, for being my comfort during the hardest times in my life. I'm at peace knowing I was able to comfort you during your transition. I will miss your presence and hearing you say, "I love you more. Come" whisper it in my ear sometimes! I love you forever." - Shakirah Robinson

"I'm prepared Grandma. ... I'm Ready" - Shamaya Reid

"You gave me the best 33 years of my life!. Thank you for showing me what unconditional love felt like. I love you Granny - Talia" - Talia Woods

"To my sweet loving Grandma Joann, words can't describe how thankful I am on how you raised and taught my mother everything she knew about family. In return she passed that trait down not only to her kids, but her grandchildren that family is first no matter and always being there for each other when needed. I will cherish your memory and legacy. I will make sure that until the day we meet again. Rest easy queen - "Big Boy" aka Jordan" - Jordan Newcombe

"I love you, Grandma. I'm going to miss the times we shared. I know my dad couldn't wait for you. Your strength, love and our bond will help me through this time until we meet again - "if you insist". "the one with your Jerome's face." Shameka Robinson

"I'm grateful for all the sleepovers we had the times you'd take care of me while my mom was at work and we'd watch Judge Judy and Judge Mathis together all day. Thank you for all your love and care you will be forever missed. - TaNia" - TaNia Smith

"My over protective Mom entrusted Aunt Joan to be my primary babysitter. She took her assignment very seriously. She loved me with all her heart and considered me one of her own. As I grew older, I still spent every day at her house so all my childhood memories include Auntie, Uncle Ray and my 7 brother/sister cousins who always included me and showed me love. I thank God for her presence in my life. She is one of the rocks my foundation is built on. RIP Auntie. Love Beckyboo." Yvette Chandler.

"One of the realest people I ever knew. Love you, Joan. Rest in Love" - Nancy Thomas

"Grandma Joan was always welcoming, kind, calm, and cool to spend time with. I always appreciated the attention she gave me." John Boyce

"From our first introduction, you treated me like family and welcomed me with open arms. You showed me so much love and gave Tanisha and I so much support in our marriage, and I'm forever grateful for you. I will miss you, Grammie. -- Love Shawn" - Shawn Amilcar

"She was always so kind to me. Whenever we'd see each other she would always say with excitement, "Evangeline" with a smile. She never call me Lynn. We always acknowledged each others presence in the room. I will keep the memory of her loving spirit and how she made me feel special. I miss her." - Lynn Morgan

"To the family, I'm going to miss my bestie (Joan). My bestie and I did a lot together. We would go and get our nails done together and then grab something to eat and laugh and talk. I'm truly going to miss you." - Leslie

"Thank God for allowing me to be apart of your life, Shopping or just sitting on the balcony. Little Chrissy" Christine Nicholson

