

*and Faithful
Servant...*

Acknowledgements

The family of Cora Thornton would like to acknowledge each act of kindness and love displayed during this time. We sincerely appreciate the calls, texts, expression of condolences and most of all the prayers. May God continue to bless, strengthen, and comfort you.



*You Brightened
up this
World*

*So selfless, kind, and true.
You gave your all so freely,
And brought such joy to me too.*

*You guided me with wisdom,
Your love still lights my way.
Though I miss you dearly,
Your memory will never fade.*

*You both were truly special,
Though losing you brought pain,
Together now forever —
Until we meet again.*

Together Again



THE FERGUSON-RAYAM FUNERAL HOME

Andrew C. Ferguson Emmanuel D. Rayam
Executive Director • Owner COO • Owner
NJ Lic. No. 5202 • NY Lic. No. 14880 NJ Lic. No. 4720

80 Midland Avenue • Wallington, NJ 07057
Tel: (973) 500-4330 • Fax: (973) 506-1556
Email: frfuneralhome@yahoo.com
www.FergusonRayamFH.com



*Well Done
Thy Good*





Arrival
JULY 1, 1944



Departure
AUGUST 11, 2025



HONORING THE LIFE OF
MOTHER
CORA
THORNTON
JULY 1, 1944 ~ AUGUST 11, 2025

THE LIFE STORY OF
MOTHER
CORA B.
THORNTON
JULY 1, 1944 ~ AUGUST 11, 2025

Cora Burton of Hillside, New Jersey, was born on July 1, 1944, in Chase City, Virginia, to the late Beatrice and John Lewis Oliver.

She received her education in the Mecklenburg County School System. After relocating to New Jersey in 1961, Cora earned a Business Skills Certification from ManPower Academy.

While working at Remco Toy Factory in Newark, she met the love of her life, Walter Thornton. The two were united in marriage on December 31, 1974. Their love brought forth and nurtured their beloved daughter, Audrey Thornton.

Cora was a dedicated employee of the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center for many years. Throughout her tenure, she worked in various departments and roles across multiple sites, serving veterans and co-workers alike with a warm smile and her signature sense of style. She retired in 1999 after years of faithful service. While working full-time, Cora also became a licensed Beautician and Cosmetologist, building a loyal clientele who trusted her with the care of their hair for many years.

A long-standing and active member of First Timothy Missionary Baptist Church, Cora served in numerous capacities. She was a faithful member of both the Gospel Chorus and Unified Voices, and served as Executive Council President. She played a key role in efforts to help pay off one of the church’s mortgages—To God be ALL the glory!

Cora was deeply devoted to her family. She cared lovingly and diligently for her mother Beatrice, her sister Gladys, and her husband Walter for many years. She often opened her home to family and friends in times of need, offering both a warm bed and a generous heart. Together, she and Walter quietly embodied a ministry of help and hospitality.

Cora loved spending time with her family and friends. A skilled and organized Southern cook, she was well known for hosting memorable cookouts and gatherings—often to celebrate birthdays or simply to bring people together. She also held an annual dinner in celebration of their wedding anniversary, always making sure it concluded in time to attend Watch Night Service. Her home was a haven where everyone felt welcomed, loved, and cared for.

On August 11, 2025, God, in His infinite wisdom and enduring mercy, called His beautiful, sweet, and strong servant home, delivering her from pain into eternal peace.

Cora was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Walter Thornton; her parents, John Lewis and Beatrice Oliver; her siblings, Gladys Oliver, Fred Oliver (her protector), Jesse Oliver (the enforcer), and Curtis Melvin Goode (the baby); and her dear sister-friend, Grazel Berkins.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her devoted daughter and best friend, Audrey Thornton; her bonus daughter, Chanel Brown; her precious brother, Robert Oliver (her Doll); sisters-in-love, Diana Oliver, Ernita Goode, and Stephanie Davis; cherished sister-friends, Audrey Jones, Francena Hicks, Cora Riley, Henrietta Lee, Mary Graves, Irene Thompson, and Lois Roberts; nieces and nephews, Nicole Oliver, Tammy Wilson, Stephen Oliver, Jesse Oliver, Jarrell Goode, Darrell Bacon, Curtis Troy Goode, Rob Ransom & Faustina Oliver; godchildren, Andrea Ganie, Tina Hicks, Ratima Williams, Leah Riley, Jermaine Puryear, Emmitt McSween, and Sherrod Harvey; grandchildren, Dwayne Birden, Bashirah Bostic, Chantell Puryear, Jermaine Puryear, Jr., Jada Puryear, Raquel Puryear; special “knee-baby”, Roslyn Whittle, and a host of beloved cousins, relatives, friends, extended family, former co-workers, church family, and those with whom she shared a special bond.

Cora had a straight-forward, quick-witted, and endearing way of making people feel seen, heard, valued, and loved. Her presence was a gift, and her legacy of love, generosity, and service will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

ORDER OF
Service

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025
10:00 AM
FIRST TIMOTHY BAPTIST CHURCH
215 CHANCELLOR AVE., NEWARK, NJ
Elder Janet Nickels, Presiding
Apostle Marchelle McLeod, Officiating

PROCESSIONAL
Clergy & Family

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament
Minister Eldridge Brown
New Testament
Dr. Tawana Williams

PRAYER OF COMFORT
Evangelist Jacqueline Ruffin

MUSICAL SELECTION
Minister Veronica Ingram

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

REFLECTIONS
(2 Reflections for 2 minutes Please)

OBITUARY
Nicole Oliver

REFLECTIONS
Family & Friends

MUSICAL SELECTION
Choir

EULOGY
Apostle Marchelle McLeod
Pastor, Prophetic Vision Deliverance Ministries International

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

FINAL VIEWING/MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Minister Darnell Ingram

CLOSING PRAYER
Elder Melissa Knight

RECESSIONAL