

OH LEE

Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee
Why did you have to leave
Why'd you have to go
Who will run the show?
Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee
Could you have stayed another day
so, the pain wouldn't stay
Who? is going to talk us through these
cloudy days?
Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee
Now you're in the potter's hand; it was
part of his Master plan
Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee, why does this have to
be?
The Lord saw you were in so much pain,
another angel he preferred to gain.
Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee
Now you're finally free
Seated at the father's knee
you have shown us, being humble is the Key
You did not die in vain
Your life will restore this families name
an example you were, and we should be the
same
Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee how we loved you so
but God loved you more and wrapped it in a

bow.
The father knew what was best.
You Gallantly passed the test, he decided
you needed to rest
Forever in our hearts
Your warmth will never depart
Forever in our soul, oh the stories that will
be told.
Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee, if only we could hug
you once again,
If only the rules we could bend. Surely, you
want our hearts to mend
To hear your voice, I know you would tell
us we have a choice,
to let go of resentment and just rejoice.
To follow your example, to make our life-
styles a living sample.
That life is short, all the chaos we must
abort
This is not just a line, you may think you
have plenty of time,
It's better to just be kind. You see all the
warning signs.
Do it now and don't change your mind.
Oh, Lee, Sweet Lee Now; You are now For-
ever Free

Pallbearers

Brandon Thurston
Cevon Thurston - Edwards
Aaron Braxton
David Sherrod Thurston
Bryan Alford
Kenneth Cunningham
Isaac Jackson
Stephen Alford

Interment

Oak Lawn Cemetery
427 Cummins Hwy.,
Boston, MA 02131

Repast

Carver Den
82 Talbot Avenue,
Boston, MA 02124

Acknowledgements

The family of Walter "Lee" Thurston would like to thank everyone who has shown love and support during this time of loss. Your prayers, kind words, visits, and acts of compassion have carried us through one of the most difficult moments of our lives.

We are deeply grateful to our extended family, friends, church family, and community for standing with us in love. Your presence, encouragement, and generosity will never be forgotten.

Lee was deeply loved, and seeing how many lives he touched reminds us that his legacy will continue to live on through all of us.

With love and gratitude,
The Thurston/Cunningham Family
"Everyone Has A Purpose – Lee"

A Celebration of Life for **Walter Lee Thurston, Jr.**

November 18, 1963 † *February 23, 2026*



SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2026 AT 11AM
TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH

160 Warren Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119

REV. STEVEN NEVILLE, OFFICIATING

Life Reflections

Walter Lee Thurston Jr., or “Lee” as he was commonly known, was born on November 18, 1963 at Cambridge City Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was raised in Roxbury and attended Highland Park Free School. It was during his early school years that Lee discovered his passion for art, particularly drawing. He began collecting comic books and spent countless hours sketching the superheroes he admired. Before long, his imagination pushed him further, and he started designing and illustrating his own original superheroes. By the time he attended Wellesley High School in Wellesley, MA, Lee had already co-created his own comic book featuring his own band of heroes.

Lee was baptized by his grandfather, the late Elder Tenzer Cunningham, at Straight Gate Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. At an early age, he became a member of 12th Baptist Church, where he was an active participant in the church’s Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF). Lee was active in the church’s summer camp program, initially as a camper and eventually serving as a counselor and mentor to younger participants. Lee also played on TBC’s basketball team.

Lee had a deep love for basketball. He possessed an impressive vertical leap: could dunk the ball with ease, and was a formidable defensive presence on the court. He played varsity basketball at Wellesley High School and later competed in numerous recreational leagues and 3-on-3 tournaments throughout the Boston area. In 1986, he represented the city of Boston in the Bay State Games, where he played alongside the late Boston Celtics star Reggie Lewis while Lewis was a student at Northeastern University.

Lee was known for his signature chase-down blocks, where he would sprint the length of the court, perfectly time his leap, and swat opponents’ layup attempts out of the air. Many players, even those significantly taller than Lee, believed they had a few steps on him and would make the layup or dunk attempt, only to realize, too late, how wrong they were. Lee also had a deep appreciation for the NBA and could spend hours discussing the league’s history, players, and unforgettable moments from any era.

Not too long after graduating high school, Lee began working at Merrill Lynch. Throughout the years, he also worked at Safety Insurance, Putnam Investments, and the Alzheimer’s Association before landing a job with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he took pride in his work and the relationships he built with both colleagues and students.

If basketball was one of Lee’s great passions, photography became his greatest. He first entered the field by assisting his friend Darryl Kelley, whom he met through a mutual friend, Sal Mills, helping set up equipment at events. It wasn’t long before Lee began photographing alongside Darryl and James “JB” Bokin at clubs in and around the Boston area, turning the experience into a thriving “side

hustle”. Eventually, Lee launched his own photography venture, 337 Photos, booking photoshoots for aspiring models looking to build their portfolios. The name “337” was a clever nod to “Lee,” spelled upside down and backwards.

Lee is survived by his loving mother, Vivian Cunningham; his younger sisters, Rhonda Thurston, Charita Thurston, and Kenyetta (Thurston) Dunston; his younger brother, David Sherrod Thurston; and his younger brother Jason Carr. He also leaves behind his cherished niece, Tranéa Perry, and nephews Cevon Thurston-Edwards, Brandon Thurston, and Ryan Thurston; great nephew Prince K’Mani Sherrod Thurston; and great niece Rainey Thurston, along with a large and loving circle of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Lee was preceded in death by his father, Walter Lee Thurston Sr., and his older sister, Sheryl Thurston.

Lee’s rich, resonant voice and his warm, infectious personality will be remembered fondly by all who knew and loved him.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Paul White

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II

Opening Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Solo

Leona Alford

He Knows How Much You Can Bear

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Isaiah 41:10

Tranéa Perry

New Testament 2 Timothy 4:7-8 Cevon Thurston-Edwards

Musical Selection “Say Amen” Jonathan Gramling

Remarks

Sanyu WaTenza & Aaron Braxton

Acknowledgements

Kenyetta Dunston

Obituary Reading

Stephen Alford

Poem

Tammi Espinola

Solo

“Peace Be Still” Jonathan Gramling

Eulogy

Rev. Steven Neville

Benediction

Bishop William E. Dickerson, II

Recessional

Organ Postlude