



Mama

*Her heartbeat was my very first sound,
Her kiss my first affection,
Her loving arms bought security,
Her instruction, clear direction.*

*I owe the person I've become to her unselfish love.
There's comfort knowing she's not gone.
She lives with God above.*

**Pallbearers
Family and Friends**

**Flower Bearers
Friends of the Family**

**Interment
Forest Lawn Cemetery
3210 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48601**

Acknowledgement

The family of Ms. Debra Jean Thomas wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all of you for your prayers, presence, love, telephone calls and all other expressions of concern that you have shown during our time of bereavement. Never more than now was your kindness needed and more appreciated.



Paradise Funeral Chapel
3100 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48601
"Service You Can Trust"

Ivan E. Phillips, Owner & President
Sharise Steele-Phillips, Manager
989-754-4826 / (f) 989-754-3740
www.paradisefuneralchapel.com



Celebrating the Life of

Mrs. Debra Jean Thomas



Sunrise: December 28, 1962 - Sunset: November 25, 2025

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025
11:00 A.M.**

**Paradise Funeral Chapel
3100 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48601**

Pastor Willie R. Hill, Jr., Officiating



Mrs. Debra Jean Thomas

Mrs. Debra Jean Thomas, affectionately known as "Sweet Legs," departed this earthly life on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at her residence in Saginaw, Michigan, at the age of 62. She was born on December 28, 1962, to Trannie Lavada Salon and Henry Lee Gray in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Debra, a resident of Saginaw, Michigan, was employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Ross Medical Center for over fifteen years. Staying true to her profession, Debra also worked in home health care for many years. She enjoyed helping those in her life and everyone around her. Debra loved her family and friends; she was a great and beloved mother, teacher, and friend. Her best friend was "Steve Harvey." No one dared touch the TV when Steve was on! Debra loved cooking, laughing, and shopping, and was full of joy, love, and happiness. Mrs. Debra Jean Thomas will be greatly missed.

Debra's memory will be forever cherished by her soulmate, John Stewart, whom she dearly loved for twenty-five years; two daughters and two sons, Leonard (Rachel) Hernandez, Debbie (Manuel) Gonzales, Darris Woods, and Lynnquina Shorter; stepson, Barry Siler; grandchildren, De-Quendre (Tyquisha) Hopkins, August Hopkins, Zaniyah Douglas, Sinclair Hopkins, Thiel Hernandez, Jessica Hernandez and DeAndre Davis; a host of great-grandchildren, one sister, Tammy Renea Gray; five brothers, Twannie Deon Gray, David Robertson, Dr. Twannie Lushun (Georgette) Gray, Donnell (Mary Ann) Gray, and Willie Ray Gray, both of Chicago, Illinois; five nieces, Amber Gray, Daijenea Wright, Jaquiese Gray, LaShell McCullough, and Chloe Gray; two nephews, Monterio Wright, and Julius McCullough. Debra will be missed by many other relatives and friends; special friends, Barry Shorter, Teshijha Walker; nurse, Tracy Hack, Bobby Douglas, Chaplain, Mrs. Viola Gonzales, and John Woods.

Debra was preceded in death by her parents, Trannie Lavada Gray and Henry Lee Gray; grandmother, Ivory Minnie Thomas; one brother, Charles LaVaughn Robertson, uncles and aunts, James H. (Priscilla) Sloan, Jimmy Sloan, Chester Sloan, and Jackie Parham; and brother-in-law, Roosevelt Pete Shorter.



Order of Service

- Prelude Musician
- Processional Family
- Scripture Reading Old & New Testament Minister
- Prayer Minister
- Selection Minister Carl McCaskey
- Acknowledgements & Obituary
- Expressions (Please Limit to 2 Minutes) Family & Friends
- Selection Minister Carl McCaskey
- Eulogy Pastor Willie R. Hill, Jr.
- Committal Benediction Recessional

Our Mom

Our mom was a woman
Who taught us to never lose sight
Though times may seem helpless
She taught us how to fight

She has shown us how
Through times of much sorrow
To look to the future
And new days of tomorrow

Even though times may be hard
And all we feel is pain
Remember, this too shall pass
Even the clouds and the rain

So, it is with heavy hearts
And tears in our eyes
That we lay her down to rest
And say our last goodbyes

