

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the late Billy Ray Thomas would like to express sincere gratitude for your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy shown during our time of bereavement. We would like to express special thanks to Pastor Curtis Baugh and Mount Salem M.B. Church Family, Pastor Marek Walker and Cherry Grove M.B. Church Family, Aunts: Mary L. Price Jefferson and Eddie Mournia Price Jones, the staff of the Baptist Medical Center of Yazoo, the Manager of Jackson Manor Apartments, and the staff of Scott Memorial Funeral Home.

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Lorenzo Thomas | Cordero Thomas  
Rayden Thomas | Sterling Thomas

## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Marneko Thomas | Detravica Richardson  
Tramez Scott | Fresh Smith  
Sr. James Johnson | Patrick King  
The Pearl King Basketball Team

## FLOWER BEARERS

Family & Friends

## INTERMENT

Oak Grove Cemetery  
Holly Bluff, MS

## REPAST

Yazoo Community Complex  
(Boys & Girls Club)  
Yazoo City, MS

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO



1401 E. Broadway Street  
Yazoo City, MS 39194  
662.746.0046

## TRIBUTES

### "I Never Said Goodbye"

I never said goodbye to you as you departed on your journey, to a place where life is new. I held your hand and kissed you, leaving made me cry.

But in the end,  
I know I will see you again.  
So, I will never say goodbye!

**Your Children,  
Grandchildren and  
Greatgrandchild**



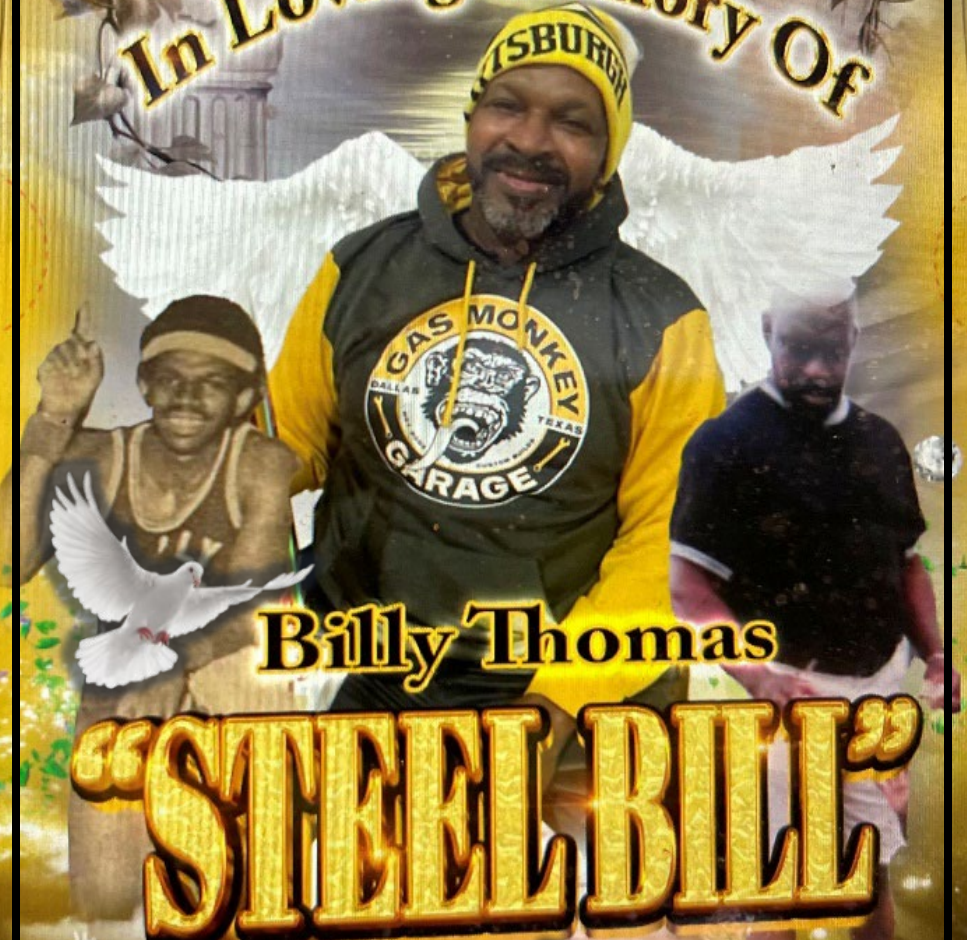
### Our Brother!

Words could not express how it felt when you slipped away without giving us a heads up, but to see the peace on your face as you rest in Jesus arms reminded us as our grandma would say, "Everything is going to be alright."

We will cherish and keep your memories alive for it reminds us of the love, time and indelible footprints that we have as we continue the journey.

**Love Your Siblings,  
Mary, Gloria, Robert Jr.,  
Henry, Herman,  
Rodney, and Patricia**

In Loving Memory Of



SUNRISE:

SEPTEMBER 19, 1956

SUNSET:

DECEMBER 4, 2023



Saturday, December 16, 2023 | 2:30 p.m.  
MT. SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
745 Twelfth Street - Yazoo City, MS 39194  
Rev. Curtis Baugh, Host Pastor  
Rev. Marek Walker, Officiating  
Pastor - Cherry Grove M.B. Church - Jackson, MS

## LIFE'S REFLECTIONS

Billy Ray Thomas began his journey of life on September 19, 1956, in Holly Bluff, MS to the late Dorothy Lockett Rivers and Archie (A.C) Price. He was the first-born child of eight children. His late grandmother, Willie Mae Kimble Johnson and his late stepfather, Robert Lockett, Sr. also shared the beginning of his journey.

Billy accepted Christ at an early age and joined New Hope Baptist Church in Holly Bluff under the leadership of the late Pastor Henry Collier, Sr.

Billy attended Holly Bluff High School and was accepted into Holmes Community College in Goodman, MS, on their basketball team.

Billy married Ethel Thomas, where three children were born, Manneshia Thomas, Lorenzo Thomas and Cordero Thomas. He later moved to Jackson, MS, where he joined the Cherry Grove M.B. Church under the leadership of Pastor Marek Walker.

Billy had a passion for basketball, his passion came from the love of the game, he loved the sweet joy of winning and becoming the best in his games. He was committed to the game and started his own Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team in Pearl, MS, "The Pearl Kings." He was an inspiration to the young as well as the old players he encountered on his journey. The Pearl Kings won several trophies during Billy's journey.

Billy loved attending church and spending time with his family. He would hit the highway to visit family and friends, no matter how he was feeling. Through many health complications, he was a fighter! He took his temporary pain as God continue to give him the grace to run his race until his Savior called him to his eternal home.

Billy peacefully transitioned to his rest on Monday, December 04, 2023, at his home where he gained his wings. He leaves to cherish his memories: His wife; Ethel Thomas; seven children: Manneshia Thomas, Lorenzo Thomas, Cordero Thomas (Dee), Chaz Smith, Sterling Smith, Melody Ward, and Angel Wood. Ten grandchildren; Derrineshia, Amayha, Kentrell, Austin, Jakeria, Shamarcus, Kionna, Larry, De'Aaronn, and Ariyah. A very special daughter-in-law: Deyonna Winsley; One greatgrandchild: Treddie 3; Eight brothers: Robert Lockett, Jr. (Sherree) of Clarksville, TN, Henry Lockett (Debra) of Jackson, MS, Herman Lockett (Michelle) of Waco TX, Rodney Lockett (Pam) of Milwaukee, WI, Archie Taylor (Jelessia) of Clinton, MS, Bennett Webb (Natoshia) of Memphis TN, Darius Kincard and Dale Patrick McNeal of Detroit, MI; Six sisters: Mary Tate (Golden) of Killeen, Tx, Gloria Shields (Jessie), Patricia Lockett of Yazoo City, MS, Diane Hooker of Memphis, Tn, Jennifer Taylor and Amanda Taylor of Yazoo City, MS; Three Aunts: Edna Earl Price Wade of Memphis, TN, Mary L. Price Jefferson and Eddie Mournia Price Jones of Yazoo City, MS; Four brothers-in-laws; four sisters-in-laws; two special cousins: Andrew Wyatt and Carolyn Thomas; a very special friend, cousin, mother, sister: Bobbie Coleman and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

## ~ ORDER OF SERVICE ~

**PROCESSIONAL**  
Clergy and Family

**SCRIPTURE READING**  
Old & New Testament  
Bro. Charlie Chapman

**PRAYER**  
Bro. Hubert Tate, Sr.

**MUSICAL SELECTION**  
Cherry Grove Choir

**WORDS OF COMFORT**  
Pastor Catherine Cowans

**EXPRESSIONS**  
Two Minutes

Anyone Who Desires

**SOLO**  
Bro. Cleveland Pepper

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE**  
Prophet Christopher L. Coleman, II  
Founder, Alpha and Omega  
International Alliance  
Jackson, MS

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
Pastor Catherine Cowans

**OBITUARY**  
Read Silently | Soft Music

**SOLO**  
Sis. Natoshia Webb

**EULOGY**  
Pastor Marek Walker  
Cherry Grove M.B. Church

**SCOTT MEMORIAL  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
IN CHARGE**

**RECESSIONAL**  
Clergy, Family and Friends

## TO MY CHILDREN

*"I Am Free!"*



Do not grieve for me,  
for now I am free,  
I am following paths  
God has chosen for me.  
I took his hand I heard him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to sing, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found my peace... at the end of day.  
If my parting left a void,  
Then fill it with remembrance and joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Be not burdened with time of sorrow.  
Look for the sunshine of tomorrow,  
My life's been full,  
I have savored much,  
Good friends, good times,  
a loved one's touch.  
My time seemed all too brief,  
Do not lengthen your pain  
with undue grief.  
Lift your hearts and peace to thee,  
God wanted me now... He set me free.