



Acknowledgements

The family of our beloved extends sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support shown during our time of bereavement. Your comforting words, floral tributes, acts of kindness, visits, phone calls, and messages have provided strength and encouragement beyond measure. We pray that God will richly bless each of you and continue to keep you in His loving care.



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CELEBRATING
THE LIFE *of*

Essie Mae THOMAS

March 18, 1953 — June 13, 2026

Saturday, June 27, 2026 | 5PM
GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
1880 Xanthia Street, Denver, CO 80220



Essie Mae THOMAS

Affectionately known as both G-Mama and Granny by her adoring grandchildren, Essie Mae Thomas passed away on June 13, 2026. The cherished matriarch, born in Denver, CO, on March 18, 1953, received her education in the Denver Public School System. Graduated from Manuel H.S as a proud Thunderbolt and was a radiant beacon of love and faith who imbued warmth and comfort into every life she touched. A resident of Aurora, Colorado, Essie's heart remained rooted in her Colorado heritage, even as she spent time in Chicago with her loving daughter, Evelyn (Steven), and family.

Essie was an inspiring woman of depth and character who lived her life as a testament to devotion and selflessness. Her humble abode was customarily filled with unique trinkets and antiques, each one a representation of her love for collecting. Essie was not just a dedicated prayer warrior; she was also an avid writer, penning poetry that resonated with heart and soul, and even aspired to author a book. Her love for singing gospel and her unwavering faith in God reflected her profound spirituality. As the saying goes, "A good life is a collection of happy moments", and Essie lived this in the truest sense. She loved to travel, savoring the beauty and diversity of the world, and had a special fondness for seafood. Essie's life was an inspiring journey of love, faith, and resilience, which touched many lives in countless ways, including returning to her class reunion every time they celebrated.

Essie is survived by her daughters Essence Swain and Evelyn (Steven) Stephenson, her sons Devin Watson, Charles Watson, and Lauren Watson, her siblings Wanda Knauls, Flora Redd, Jamesetta (Samuel) West, and Teresa (Anthony) Nicholas also her loving grandchildren Christopher Lewis (Lauren), CJ Swain, Caulen (Gianna) Swain, Ahnayah McGill, London Swain, Javon Stephenson, Steven Stephenson Jr, and Jarrel Stephenson. Her legacy also continues to thrive through her great-grandchildren, Inari Lewis and Oakland Lopez-Swain, her brother Gerald Kelley-Thomas, beloved sisters, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, James Sr, her mother, Evelyn Shepard, her son, Edward Thomas, her sisters, Lesley Barton and Jane Thomas, and her son-in-law, Christopher Swain.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Pastor Rico Wint, Officiant

PROCESSIONAL

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE
Psalm 23

MUSICAL SELECTION
"I Love The Lord"
Whitney Houston

REMEMBERING ESSIE
2 Minutes Please

VIDEO TRIBUTE

MUSICAL SELECTION
"Jesus is Love"
Lionel Richie

EULOGY
Pastor Rico Wint

RECESSIONAL

