



James Lee Thornton

July 29, 1944 - August 24, 2024

James Lee Thornton, Sr., was born in Hart County, GA on July 29, 1944, to the late Otis C. Teasley and Thelma Thornton Smith and L.C. Smith. James was raised and nurtured by his Grandparents the late James Gene and Velma Merritt Thornton.

James was preceded in death by one daughter, Valerie Chatman. His beloved sister Claudette Smith Hood, brothers Gilbert, Lonnie, and Jimmy Smith.

He was a member of the Royston Grove Baptist Church (Royston, GA), where he joined at an early age. James retired from Blue Circle after 30 plus years of truck driving service.

On Saturday, August 24, 2024, James answered GOD's call to his Eternal Heavenly Home. James leaves all to cherish his most fond memories and all of whom were fortunate to bask in his infinite love. Many of James's passions were cooking, he never met a stranger, always humble, and easy to love. James enjoyed life, laughing, and showing his enormous heart of love.

James leaves his wife of 49 years Mrs. Phyllis Chatman Thornton, the children that called him Daddy: Daughters: Ms. Kendra Thornton Jennings, Mrs. Phyllis (Charlie) McCloud (Jacksonville, FL) Sons: Mr. James Thornton, Jr, and Mr. Patrick (April) Thornton, Kenny Little (Royston, GA).

Some called him Daddy & some called him Poppa, but he always answered the call from His grandchildren: Ms. Kala Chatman & Ms. Paquasha Randolph, Ms. Jasmine Thornton, Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Darez Chatman, Mr. Patrick (PJ) Thornton, Mr. Jaylin Thornton, Mr. Sydney Thornton, Mr. Braxton Fortson, Ms. Aubrey Smith. His great grands: Brankyla, Kymauriae, Fuchure, London, Keelyn, Kingstyn Chatman, Dream, Kamden James (KJ) Thornton.

His Sisters: Mrs. Debra Little and Ms. Sharon Eades, (Hartwell, GA), his brothers: Bobby (Linda) Smith (Anderson, SC), Keith (Bridgett) Smith (Hartwell, GA). In-laws: Dorothy (Willie) Mize, Bessie Bush, Mary (Raymond) Lindsey, Teresa (Willie) Mayfield, (Gainesville, GA) Martha (James) Maddox (Lula, GA). And a host of Nieces, Nephews, other Relatives, Friends, whom he all loved.

“Don’t grieve for me, for now I’m free. I’m following the path GOD laid for me. I took HIS hand when I heard the call, I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work or play. Task left undone must stay that way. I found that place at the close of the day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, ah yes, these things I too will miss! Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you sunshine tomorrow. My life’s been full, I’ve savored much. Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief. Don’t lengthen it now with undue grief! Lift up your heart and share with me... GOD wanted me now, HE set me free.”

Cemetery Details

Alta Vista Cemetery

521 Jones Street
Gainesville, GA 30501

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 30. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wimberly Funeral Home
325 Summitt St SE
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 536-3251
info@wimberlyjackson.com
<https://www.wimberlyjacksonfuneralhome.com>

Receiving Friends

AUG 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wimberly Funeral Home
325 Summitt St SE
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 536-3251
info@wimberlyjackson.com
<https://www.wimberlyjacksonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 31. 12:00 PM (ET)

Antioch Baptist Church
1010 Mill Street
Gainesville, GA 30501
<http://antiochbaptistgainesville.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Debra Mize lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton*



Debra Mize - August 30, 2024 at 11:08 AM

MH

“ *Mechelle HENDRIX lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton*



Mechelle HENDRIX - August 30, 2024 at 10:36 AM

DM

“ *We are so sorry for you loss Diane Merritt and Family Canon, Ga .*



Diane Merritt - August 29, 2024 at 06:29 PM

RM

“ *Randle, Shaundra and Anaya McCullum purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Lee Thornton.*



Randle, Shaundra and Anaya McCullum - August 29, 2024 at 04:40 PM

JW

“ James & Margaret Webb sent a virtual gift in memory of James Lee Thornton



James & Margaret Webb - August 29, 2024 at 03:15 PM

MM

“ Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton



Mary Moore - August 29, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Lee Thornton.



August 29, 2024 at 09:34 AM

TF

“ Prayers for the Smith and Thornton family.
Rest easy James!

The Mayfield Family



The Mayfield family - August 28, 2024 at 02:49 PM

WM

“ *Wmaxwell lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton*



Wmaxwell - August 28, 2024 at 02:09 PM

NF

“ *My prayers are with the family of James Thornton*



Nikiya Few - August 28, 2024 at 03:35 AM

JM

“ *Joyce Mitchell lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton*



Joyce Mitchell - August 27, 2024 at 07:32 PM

LT

“ *Prayers. The Maxwell/Mattox family out of Hartwell Ga.*



Lydia Mattox TuckerShumaker - August 27, 2024 at 05:05 PM

TJ

“ Toni Johnson lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton



Toni Johnson - August 27, 2024 at 02:08 PM

TF

“ Tawanna Fortson lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton



Tawanna Fortson - August 26, 2024 at 08:13 PM

MM

“ Martha Chatman Mattox lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton



Martha chatman Mattox - August 26, 2024 at 07:21 PM

MM

Sister law and brother we really gone to miss the good times and the good music James Martha James we keep my sister Phillis and your kids in prayer love you all rest in peace good time funny brother law cool James t

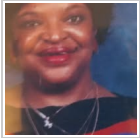
Martha chatman Mattox - August 26, 2024 at 07:27 PM

Mary Moore

“ *Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton*



Mary Moore - August 26, 2024 at 06:23 PM



“ *Regina Harris lit a candle in memory of James Lee Thornton*



Regina Harris - August 26, 2024 at 01:27 PM

JT

My heart's goes out to the fullest entire Thornton Family from the Jeannette Thomas family's of Royston Georgia

Jeannette Thomas - August 29, 2024 at 11:25 AM

JT

Sorry for your loss

Jeannette Thomas - August 29, 2024 at 11:26 AM