



Mr. Charlie "CJ" Thomas Jr.

August 15, 1949 - February 26, 2015

Mr. Charlie "CJ" Thomas, Jr., affectionately known as "Warlord", 65, of Peoria, IL passed away at 2:30 pm on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at Rockford Memorial Hospital in Rockford, IL.

CJ was born on August 15, 1949 in Greenwood, MS to Charlie and Margaret (Wright) Thomas, Sr. CJ married Marilyn Barnes in Peoria. CJ was an Army Veteran serving in the Vietnam War where he received the Vietnam service metal.

CJ attended Illinois Central College in East Peoria, IL and University of Iowa. He worked as a Deputy Clerk in the Elections Division at the Peoria County Courthouse for many years.

CJ was an accomplished musician who played with the Soul Survivors and Dave and the Dynamics. He was a vocalist, composer and drummer "extraordinaire". He was also inducted into the Downstate African American Hall of Fame and Museum in 2001.

CJ leaves to cherish his most precious memories his loving wife of 43 years, Marilyn Thomas of Peoria; his mother, Margaret Thomas Gulley of Peoria; two daughters, Camille (Tramond) Harris of Winter Park, FL; Brianna "Bree" Thomas of New York City, NY; two sisters, Deborah Totten and Patricia "Nita" (Lee "Leroy") Wallace of Peoria; one brother, Edgar (Judy) Thomas of Westcliffe, CO; one half brother and sister, Borise Thomas and Reta Thomas of Chicago; one step brother and sister, Paul Gulley and Sue Guyton of Peoria; three grandchildren, Ashlin Thomas of Peoria, AuriesThomas-Brown of Calumet City, IL and Alexandre Thomas-Brown of Altamonte Springs, FL and a host of nieces, nephews, other family. CJ is preceded in death by his father; one brother, Ulisher Thomas, brother-in-law, Cleveland Totten and grandparents, Edgar and Mary Williams.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at Forrest Hill United Methodist Church with a visitation beginning at 10 am. Rev. Dr. Curt D. Keller will officiate. US Army Military Rites will be accorded.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at simonsmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Forrest Hill United Methodist Church
706 East Forrest Hill Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603
<http://www.forresthillumc.org>

Funeral Service

MAR 7. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Forrest Hill United Methodist Church
706 East Forrest Hill Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603
<http://www.forresthillumc.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Charlie "CJ" Thomas Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - March 06, 2015 at 05:10 PM



“ *Mr. Charlie "CJ" Thomas Jr.*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Charlie "CJ" Thomas Jr.*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *I am in Philadelphia, Pa and was unable to attend CJ's home going service. He was such a wonderful person .I pray God gives your family the strength to get thru these trying times. There is no hurt on earth that heaven can't heal. May god be with you*

Katy March-Wyche Philadelphia, Pa. March 12 2015

Katy Wyche - March 12, 2015 at 08:53 PM



“ *Dear Brianna and momma Marilyn,*

My prayers continue for you and your family during this difficult time of losing a man loved much by you both. Please know that you are in my daily prayers for comfort and new hope; days that will start will tears may they convert to memories of joy. Peace and love, Alicia Pitterson NYC

Alicia Pitterson, NYC - March 07, 2015 at 11:14 PM

LW

“ Dear Marilyn, Brianna, Steve, and Debbie,

I am in Birmingham, Alabama, and unable to attend the homegoing service for CJ. I wish I could be there with your family and friends to remember the magical, musical moments with you and to mix my tears with the river of loss and fond remembrance that is flowing.



May you find peace and comfort through faith and togetherness.

Blessings,

Lynnda White

Lynnda White - March 07, 2015 at 07:02 AM



“ *It was a pleasure being in his presence as a child! I remember coming over after school with Bre and he would be sitting at the piano! Such a wonderful person and an awesome husband and father...I pray God gives the family the strength they need to get thru this difficult time! Love You Bre and Marilyn*

LaCroya Russell

Lacroya Russell - March 06, 2015 at 03:55 PM

BG

“ *Bri,*

So sorry for this great loss. It was always very apparent to anyone nearby that you two were so very close. And I pray you and your family will feel God's strong peace and presence surrounding you. "there is no hurt on earth that heaven can't heal"... waiting for a better day, a glad reunion!

*love to you and your mom,
Barb & Dale Geyer*

Barb Geyer - March 06, 2015 at 03:07 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Charlie "CJ" Thomas Jr..*



March 06, 2015 at 10:19 AM

SH

“ *Marilyn and Bianna we are keeping you in our prayers. May God watch over you both.*

Sharon and Bob Hodson - March 05, 2015 at 11:44 AM

TA

“ *The Parker Family is praying for you Bre (Brianna) and Mrs. Marilyn. I pray that God will comfort you and your loved ones during this time.*



To Those I Love

*If I should ever leave you
To go along the silent way, grieve not,
Nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk
Of me as if I were beside you there.
(I'd come - I'd come, could I but find a way!
But would not tears and grief be barriers?)
And when you hear a song or see a bird
I loved, please do not let the thought of me
Be sad .. For I am loving you just as I always have .
You were so good to me!
There are so many things I wanted still
To do - so many things to say to you .
Remember that I did not fear . it was
Just leaving you that was so hard to face .
We cannot see beyond . But this I know:
I loved you so - `twas heaven here with you!*

Isla Paschal Richardson

Love Tamara, Brian, Lil Ricky, Petros

Tamara - March 05, 2015 at 08:57 AM