



Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr.

September 17, 1976 - June 7, 2025

Bro. Cleveland Thomas, Jr., 48, of Peoria, IL, passed away at 8:13 pm on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at his residence.

Cleveland, also nicknamed “Rooster”, was born on September 17, 1976, in Peoria, IL to the Rev. Dr. Cleveland Thomas, Sr. and Cornelia “Connie” (Jackson) Burnside. He confessed Christ and was baptized at the age of seven. Cleveland was a lifelong member of New Morning Star M. B. Church under the leadership of his father.

Cleveland was a graduate of Peoria Central High School class of 1995. He was an outdoorsman and an amazing chef. Cleveland loved camping, fishing, grilling, cooking, swimming, and playing sports with his sons. To know Cleveland was to love him! He had a vibrant and inviting personality and was sure to bring a good laugh whenever he was around.

Cleveland loved his family and leaves to cherish his most precious memories, his father, Cleveland, Sr. of Peoria, IL; his mother, Connie (the Rev. Jimmie) Burnside of Peoria, IL and his grandmother, Betty Hill of Peoria, IL. He was a loving and devoted father to his four children, Cierra Thomas, Cleveland “Trey” Thomas, III, Cameron Thomas, and Caliyah Thomas, all of Peoria, IL. Cleveland was the eldest of his siblings and leaves three brothers, Cornelius “Couri” Thomas of Peoria, IL, Joshua (Jewel) Williams of Glenn Heights, TX,

and Jamar (Kei 'Erica) Thomas of Atlanta, GA and his only sister, Clevia (Courtney) Morris of Peoria, IL. He loved and adored his three grandchildren, Cari Thomas, Cashous Thomas, and Milan Thomas, and his high school sweetheart, former wife, and mother of his eldest three children, Ruthie Gatson and Tenisha Carpenter, mother of his youngest daughter both of Peoria, IL. He will remain in the hearts of his nieces, nephews, his Burnside family, his former stepmother, Beverly Thomas; and a host of cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends. Cleveland is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Rev. Cornelius and Bessie Jackson; paternal grandparents, Genral Price Thomas, Sr. and Louise Richardson and step grandfather, George Richardson, Sr.

Although we mourn Cleveland's demise, God made the call, and he answered.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at New Morning Star M.B. Church with a visitation prior at 9 am. Pastor Keith Thomas of First Missionary Baptist Church of Cullen, IL will officiate and Rev. Dr. Craig Smith, Pastor of Freedom Baptist Church, Hillside, IL will bring forth the eulogy.

Cleveland will be laid to rest at Swan Lake Memory Gardens.

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

Cemetery Details

Swan Lake Memory Gardens

4601 W War Memorial Dr.
Peoria, IL 61615

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 21. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Funeral Service

JUN 21. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
413 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - June 19, 2025 at 03:46 PM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - June 19, 2025 at 06:40 AM



“ *Siobhan S Morris lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Siobhan S Morris - June 22, 2025 at 03:56 PM

LC

“ Sending prayers of comfort condolence and love. to the Thomas, Burnside, Connie, Pastor Thomas and families of Brother Cleveland Thomas Jr.



Linda Hardy and Family from Arizona, Col - June 21, 2025 at 04:39 PM

TB

“ Tamara Byrd lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas



Tamara Byrd - June 21, 2025 at 10:26 AM

KC

“ Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas



Kathy Collins - June 20, 2025 at 01:46 PM

KE

“ King Eric lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas



King Eric - June 19, 2025 at 12:11 PM

MR

“ *Mattie Risby lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Mattie Risby - June 19, 2025 at 11:19 AM

RB

“ *Ruth Bush lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Ruth Bush - June 19, 2025 at 11:16 AM

MY

“ *My deepest love and sympathies are extended too The Thomas Family.*

Please know you are in thoughts and prayers of many.

Michael Young, Washington, D.C.



Michael Young - June 19, 2025 at 10:19 AM

CH

“ *Charleen Halen lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Charleen Halen - June 18, 2025 at 03:34 PM

TF

“ The Tyler Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..



The Tyler Family - June 17, 2025 at 05:58 PM

TF

“ The Tyler Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..

The Tyler Family - June 17, 2025 at 05:58 PM

KS

“ Kates Detective and Security purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..



Kates Detective and Security - June 17, 2025 at 05:56 PM

KS

“ Kates Detective and Security planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..

Kates Detective and Security - June 17, 2025 at 05:56 PM

MD

“ Michael Young, Washington, D.C. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..



Michael Young, Washington, D.C. - June 17, 2025 at 04:24 PM

MD

“ Michael Young, Washington, D.C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..

Michael Young, Washington, D.C. - June 17, 2025 at 04:24 PM

GJ

“ To the family of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr, may Jesus Christ comfort you in your time of mourning.
May Jesus Christ shine his continence on you and give you peace.



Glispon Owens Jr - June 17, 2025 at 01:46 PM

TM

“ To Clevia and Family, may God bring you the comfort during this time.

Theresa McAfee - June 17, 2025 at 11:01 AM

DB

“ *Dorothea Banks-Burse lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Dorothea Banks-Burse - June 17, 2025 at 09:47 AM

EL

“ *Ella Lee lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Ella Lee - June 16, 2025 at 11:10 PM

JS

“ *Joyce M Smith lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Joyce M Smith - June 16, 2025 at 10:40 PM

MB

“ *Our condolences to the family~ Mr.& Mrs. James Agbara Bryson*



Margaret Bryson - June 16, 2025 at 08:52 AM

RW

“ *Renessa Watkins lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Renessa Watkins - June 15, 2025 at 11:17 PM

TI

“ *Timkia lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Timkia - June 13, 2025 at 05:28 PM

BP

“ *BRENDA PORTER lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



BRENDA PORTER - June 13, 2025 at 10:19 AM

PG

“ *My sincere condolences to the family. Praying for strength & comfort!*



Pam Gaston - June 13, 2025 at 05:53 AM

KC

“ *Kathy collins lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Kathy collins - June 13, 2025 at 05:15 AM

IL

“ *Ivora Rudd Lucas lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Ivora Rudd Lucas - June 12, 2025 at 11:20 PM

SM

“ *Connie and Family, I pray that God will grant you all the pace and comfort that you need during this time of sorrow. Remember that God knows what you are in need of now and forever.*

Sue Marks - June 12, 2025 at 10:10 PM

BW

“ *Rev Thomas you are in my prayers. It is with deepest sorrow that I feel for the both of you right now. May The Lord Bring You Both Comfort, Knowing That Your Son Is In The Presence Of The Lord. Mrs. Barbara White.*

Barbara White - June 12, 2025 at 06:36 PM

MC

“ Sending love to the Thomas family. Marvan Cornish.



Marvan G Cornish - June 12, 2025 at 01:41 AM

NA

“ NATASHA Nicole ALLEN lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas



NATASHA Nicole ALLEN - June 12, 2025 at 01:15 AM

RW

“ Richard & Theresa Walker lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas



Richard & Theresa Walker - June 11, 2025 at 08:42 PM

VK

“ To the Family of: Cleveland Thomas Jr. - I would like to express my sincere sympathy at the passing of your loved one. May God grant you a peace that surpasses all understanding.



Vickie King - June 11, 2025 at 02:46 PM

DC

“ *Cleveland was full of life. To be in his company was a genuine delight for me. His outlook on life always made my heart feel a sense of purpose. I shall miss my friend.*

Donald Cummings - June 11, 2025 at 10:55 AM

MC

“ *Minister Donald Cummings purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..*



Minister Donald Cummings - June 11, 2025 at 10:50 AM

MC

“ *Minister Donald Cummings planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..*

Minister Donald Cummings - June 11, 2025 at 10:50 AM

CH

“ *Calvin & Pamela Hightower lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Calvin & Pamela Hightower - June 11, 2025 at 09:47 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Cleveland Thomas Jr..*



June 10, 2025 at 07:17 PM



“ *Zerlyna Burse-Taylor lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Zerlyna Burse-Taylor - June 10, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ *Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Emel Buckner - June 10, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ *Toni Brown lit a candle in memory of Cleveland Thomas*



Toni Brown - June 10, 2025 at 03:48 PM

SM

Connie and Family, I am praying that God will give you the peace and comfort necessary to heal the pain and sorrow that you are experiencing during this time. As you remember his presence in your conversations, God always has a way of bringing laughter and peace during this sorrow filled time.

Sue Marks - June 11, 2025 at 06:49 PM