



Mr. Thomas Lilly

June 2, 1922 - March 14, 2021

Mr. Thomas “Jim” Lilly, 98, of Peoria, IL passed away peacefully, at 5:35 am on Sunday morning, March 14, 2021, at his residence, surrounded by his loving children.

Thomas was born on June 2, 1922 in Lester Arkansas, and was the youngest son of the late Tony & Nellie (Pratt) Lilly. After his WW II tour ended in the army, Thomas was traveling to Detroit to visit his brother; however, after a brief stopover in Peoria in 1945, he met and married Fannie Young on March 7, 1952, a union that lasted 38 years until her death.

Thomas raised his family in a neighborhood, fondly referred as “THE HEIGHTS”, for over 70 years. He remained a pillar in the community, a respected gentleman, and a father figure to many.

Thomas was a longtime member of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church where he served as a Layman, Trustee, Steward Pro-Tem, Class Leader, Willing Workers, Gospel Chorus, Men’s Group of Ward, and accompanied Rev. Arthur Williams to serve Communion to the sick and shut-in.

Thomas fondly referred to as Uncle Jim or Mister Jim, was loved by all. His kind words, wisdom, or funny stories was given to all who visited.

Thomas participated in bowling leagues, loved gardening, and watching baseball games. His favorite team being the Chicago Cubs and was ecstatic about them finally winning the World Series 2016.

Thomas leaves to cherish his memory four children; Pamela E. Lilly of Fort Washington MD; Cheryl R. (Rev. Joseph) Anthony of Belleville Illinois; Bonita

G. Lilly of Washington DC; and Timothy Paul Lilly Sr. of Peoria Illinois; 16 grandchildren: Joslyn (Adam) Sandifer of Belleville IL; Joseph A. (Talisha) Anthony of Dallas TX; Xynique Lilly of Las Vegas, NV; Jennene (Sean) Smith of Schereville IN; Joya (Oliver) Keys Jr. of Shioh IL; Janell Anthony Belleville IL; Lydia Lilly and Lucille (Samaro) Roberts both of Atlanta GA, Ramon Pastoriza Sr. of St. Louis, MO; Christine Lilly of Los Angeles CA; Makauia Lilly; MaKayla Scruggs-Lilly and Timothy Paul Lilly Jr., of Phoenix, AZ; Jerome David Lilly IL; Elton Mackey IL, and Lauren Thomas of Peoria IL; Kimberly Lilly, daughter-in-law of Centralia IL; and Araminta Young of Northfield NJ. PROUD great-grandfather of 17 and great-great grandfather of 2. Also, he was loved and respected by a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Fannie Lilly, and three sons, Jerome David Lilly Sr., Thomas Lilly Jr. and Fred Lilly.

His favorite saying/mantra is "Do the best you can" in which he exhibited each and every day.

"Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service... You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." Martin Luther King Jr.

This is Thomas "Jim" Lilly, Our Patriarch, the Man we will always Honor, Love, and Respect!

A private funeral service will be held at 10 am on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church with a visitation beginning prior at 9 am. Pastor Adrian Johnson will officiate and Rev. Joseph Anthony, IV, of the Potters House of North Dallas (Frisco TX) will eulogize his grandfather. Thomas will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online Condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](https://www.SimonsMortuary.com).

The service will be live streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-232095303487150> promptly AT THE TIME OF THE SERVICE.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing and attendance limits will be

observed.

In accordance with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Funerals are limited to no more than 50% of the capacity of the or less.

To be consistent with recommendations from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), funeral home directors have been instructed and should follow CDC guidelines on gatherings, including those directly related to funerals, visitations, or graveside services. Funerals are limited to no more than 50% of the decedent's immediate family members.

*In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them).

*It is our responsibility as a Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible. The sanctuary can socially distance and seat 50% of the capacity of the church. All others will be able to flow through prior to beginning of the service.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Cemetery Details

Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church
511 N Richard Allen Dr.,
Peoria, IL 61605
<http://www.wardchapelame.com/>

Celebration of Life

MAR 20. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church
511 N Richard Allen Dr.,
Peoria, IL 61605
<http://www.wardchapelame.com/>

Tribute Wall



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



Simons Mortuary - March 19, 2021 at 02:46 PM

JP

To All of Mr. Jim's family said it best, he was a dad to all of us in the heights. The beautiful smile and hug. Always caring. I remember whether came to my dads celebration of life, he spoke kindly of him, he and Jerome would always be there for others. Just a giving heart, giant of wise man. My Gromo Hattie Be would always say Jim Lilly is a good man. So this day many of us that can't be there with you will also be in mourning and Mr Jim will be truly miss and never forgotten. I pray God continue to comfort you all. All of you love and care was excellent and Mrs Fannie would have been so proud of you all. Family whose life begins and never ends. Pam, Cheryl, Bonita and Timmy and all the grandchildren and son-law. Grace and Peace to you all

judith powell-smith - March 20, 2021 at 11:05 AM

CD

Beautiful home going tribute for Mr. Lilly my deepest condolences. I'm blessed to have been a part of The Heights Family RIP

Cheryl Dismuke - March 20, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ *Mr. Thomas Lilly*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Thomas Lilly*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Zerlyna Burse-Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly*



Zerlyna Burse-Taylor - March 20, 2021 at 07:00 PM



“ *Solvian Dismuke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly*



Solvian Dismuke - March 20, 2021 at 10:09 AM



“ *Sending my sincere condolences to the family of Brother Thomas Lilly. He will be deeply missed by his Ward Chapel AME Church family. He was the perfect gentleman and met everyone with a smile. I pray that the family will be comforted by fond memories and that God will grant you peace. May God bless and keep you all. ~ Beverly L. Nance*

Beverly L. Nance - March 19, 2021 at 09:24 PM

MY

“ Rest well Uncle Jim, we are ever so thankful to our heavenly father for having you walk amongst us. You have been a beacon of love, wisdom and knowledge.

You have fought a good fight and finished the course and kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for you a crown of righteousness.

See you in the morning.

Michael Young, Washington, D.C.

Michael Young - March 19, 2021 at 08:15 PM

JO

“ Jeanette Jackson Owens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly



Jeanette Jackson Owens - March 19, 2021 at 10:44 AM

RM

“ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4) There's no greater comfort than to be in the presence of God's assurance. Love Tony, Roxanne & Daughter's Kayla, Arianna & Garyia McGhee



Roxanne McGhee - March 18, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas Lilly.*



March 18, 2021 at 08:20 PM

CD

“ *Central District Association*

March 18, 2021

To The Family of Brother Thomas Lilly:

Although you have left us in life, you have no more pain, struggles or strife; you are going to the land where others trod, and a land where there is peace and contentment with God; we will always remember you and there we will find the love of God in our hearts.

You will be missed but never forgotten,

Central District Association

*Gloria Meachem
President*

*Bessie Tory
Corresponding Secretary*

Central District - March 18, 2021 at 07:52 PM

UB

“ *United Usher Board of Peoria*

*P.O. Box 1143
Peoria, IL 61653-1143
(309) 685-5940
Email: unitedusherboard@yahoo.com*

March 18, 2021

To the Family of Brother Thomas Lilly:

We, the of the United Usher Board of Peoria, offer our heartfelt sympathy during this time of sorrow.

We say to you, look to Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith and remember that there is peace in knowing Jesus. So be encouraged and trust that God will take care of you.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

*Humbly Submitted,
The United Usher Board of Peoria*

*Essie Ellis, President
Bessie Tory, Corresponding Secretary*

United Usher Board - March 18, 2021 at 07:50 PM

KA

“ *Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly*



Karen Ashby - March 18, 2021 at 06:55 PM

TW

“ *To the family of Mr. Lilly, know that my prayers are with you in this time of loss. I knew Mr. Lilly through the Illinois Conference Lay Org and he was always a delight to have in the meetings. He was a true gentleman and a true man of God. I know he will be missed by many. I know he was loved by many. Tamarra Washington*

tamarra washington - March 17, 2021 at 11:31 AM

RL

“ *Sending heart-felt condolences to the Lilly Family. Mr. Lilly was the nicest, kindest and most soft-spirited Dads in the Heights neighborhood. He always had a smile and warm words to say. Our Dad will miss his dear friend.*

There are no words to express our sadness for your loss. You are in the Ward Family's thoughts and prayers.

Robin Ward Lindsay and Family, George Ward Sr. and Family

Robin Lindsay - March 16, 2021 at 09:13 PM

RL

“ Robin Lindsay lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly



Robin Lindsay - March 16, 2021 at 09:11 PM

RF

“ Ronnie Furness lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly



Ronnie Furness - March 16, 2021 at 06:55 AM

JS

“ Joy Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly



Joy Smith - March 15, 2021 at 09:30 PM

CT

“ Chris & Angela Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Lilly



Chris & Angela Thompson - March 15, 2021 at 08:14 PM



Condolences to the whole Lilly family.

Darryl Pegues - March 15, 2021 at 10:09 PM