

Rev. James Earl Thorpe, Sr.

July 19, 1942 - January 27, 2014

Some say that death is an ending,
however death is only the beginning;
The journey has begun with our Lord and Savior.

Reverend James Earl Thorpe, Sr., youngest son of the late Graham and Josephine Tharrington Thorpe, was born on July 19, 1942 in Granville County North Carolina. He departed this life on Monday, January 27, 2014. Preceding Jimmy in death were his brothers, Robert and Henry Thorpe; sisters, Edith Ray and Carrie Alston.

Reverend Thorpe grew up in the Wilton and Butner communities and graduated from G.C. Hawley High School in 1960.

James Earl, "Slick," or Jimmy, began singing as a young man and eventually sang professionally as Jimmy Thorpe, with "Free Me Love" becoming a hit that gained wide radio air play. He began his professional career as a driver and background singer for the Blind Boys of Alabama. Jimmy also sang as a background singer for nationally known artists such as James Brown, Joe Simon, and Wilson Pickett whenever they toured the south.

He was married to the late Carolyn Stewart Thorpe and they were blessed to

become the parents of James Earl Thorpe, Jr. "Boo".

Jimmy worked for the Phillip Morris Company for 30 years before retiring in 1997. While working at Phillip Morris, he met Wendy Noel, who later became his wife. He was an avid fisherman and had a love of horseback riding.

Jimmy was licensed and ordained as a minister of the Gospel by County Line Baptist Association of North Carolina on January 24, 2014.

He leaves to cherish his memories a loving and devoted wife, Wendy Thorpe; sons, James Earl Thorpe Jr. "Boo" (Kimberley) and Denny R. Jones, Jr., daughter, Wanda I. Branch; six grandchildren; Justin, Corey, Derrick, Kayanna, James III and Jaron; one great granddaughter, Jameia Thorpe; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Dinwiddie Memorial Cemetery

7324 Church Road
Petersburg, VA 23803

Previous Events

viewing

JAN 31. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel
Richmond, VA 23222

Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Baptist Church
4317 North Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall

KP

“Daddy I found this page today thinking about you and wanted to leave a memory from me ur God Daughter (Keiva) coming up I was always told how talented you were and knew from my earliest memory that you loved me so so much! I had it really hard coming up an u was one of the only people I could count on to make sure I was ok weather it was school clothes or something else I remember I invited u to church when I was 14 an had join an also had a solo u stayed at that church for years an devoted ur self as a member I was so impressed with u im sorry I missed ur funeral but me an my brother stay in touch praying ur ok up there watch over me love u always keiva

Keiva Page - March 15, 2025 at 04:56 PM



“Rev. James Earl Thorpe, Sr.

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

LF

“Our family would like to express our condolences to your family. May you find comfort from Jehovah God's Word The Bible. He assures us at 1 Corinthians 15:26 that "the last enemy death will be brought to nothing". Our prayers are with your family.

linn & family - February 03, 2014 at 01:18 PM

CA

“Sorry for your lost, Jesus promise at John5:28 all those in the graves will hear his voice and come out, what a joy it will be to see him again.

carolyn - February 01, 2014 at 03:03 PM

BP

“ *To The Family,
You have my deepest sympathies in the loss
of "Uncle Slick". I remember him very fondly
while visiting my Butner Family. He was a
wonderful, engaging man. I enjoyed his
singing. I am with you in Spirit. May he forever rest in peace. I love
you all.*



Bren

Brenda Peoples - January 31, 2014 at 09:21 PM

JF

“ *James and I extend our sincerest condolences to Mrs. Wendy Noel
Thorpe and family of Rev. James Earl Thorpe, Sr. Uncle Jimmy will
be sincerely missed for his peaceful, calm and funny personality.
May God comfort and give peace to the family.*

James and Karen Fowlkes, Jr.

James and Karen Fowlkes - January 31, 2014 at 06:43 PM

AR

“ *I am sorry for your loss jimmy was such a
good person to work with may he rest in
peace ann*



ann richardson - January 31, 2014 at 01:03 PM

PL

“ I am sorry to read about your loss. May God’s words in the Bible at Ps 34:18 provide you comfort. The scriptures tells us “HE” is near to those broken at heart, and those crushed in spirit HE saves

Peggy Land - January 30, 2014 at 06:57 AM

SH

“ To the family of Mr. Thorpe,
I wish to extend my condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. Acts 24:15 lovingly declares "There is going to be a resurrection."
May you receive much comfort and strength in the days ahead.

Sharon Hill - January 29, 2014 at 09:00 PM

JB

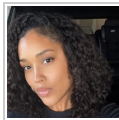
“ I'm sorry for your loss. Death can be hard to cope with. Fortunately, God promises to rid the earth of all sickness, suffering, and death (Revelation 21:4). May this bring you comfort in this time of need.

JB - January 29, 2014 at 06:31 PM

VA

“ I will remember your laughter, and all the good conversations we had. Miss and love you. O Lord, Our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens!
PSALMS 8:1 Valerie

valerie - January 29, 2014 at 03:54 PM



Thank you for the condolences

Kayanna Branch - January 29, 2014 at 06:19 PM

WT

THANK YOU DEAR FRIEND IN THESE HARD DAYS AHEAD ITS TRULY A COMFORT TO HAVE YOU IN MY LFE LOVE YOU MUCH

WENDY THORPE - July 01, 2014 at 05:32 PM

GL

“ PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES DURING THIS TIME OF YOUR LOSS. MAY YOU FIND COMFORT IN KNOWING “GOD IS NEAR TO THOSE BROKEN AT HEART AND THOSE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT HE SAVES.” PSALM 34:18

GLENDA - January 29, 2014 at 01:15 PM

ST

“ Very sorry to hear of your loss, losing a love one in death is something our Creator never intended for us to experience. How we long for the time when death will be no more as promised in the Bible. (Rev. 21:4) May the God of all comfort be with your family during this difficult time. (2Corin. 1:3,4)

Sheila Tripp - January 28, 2014 at 05:14 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - January 28, 2014 at 03:58 PM

DB

Dear Thorpe family & friends

May Jehovah be a God of all comfort God is our refuge and strength a help that is readily found in time of distress. Isaiah 59:1 is encouraging Jehovah hand is not too short and his ear is not dull.

daphane braxton - January 29, 2014 at 05:11 PM

WT

TO THE FAMILY OF MARCH FUNERAL HOME, MANY THANKS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL HOME GOING SERVICES FORM OUR FAMILY WE ARE SO APPERCIATIVE OF ALL SERVICES RENDERED TO US A JOB WELL DONE..WENDY THORPE IN REMEMBERANCE OF REV JAMES EARL THORPE SR

WENDY THORPE - July 01, 2014 at 05:43 PM

KC



Kayanna Charity - December 10, 2024 at 07:39 PM