



## Thomas R. Roberts Sr.

October 2, 1945 - July 19, 2018

### The Beginning

Life's journey for Thomas "Tommy" Randall Roberts, Sr. began as the tenth child of the late Cleo and Lillian Lee on October 2, 1945. Tommy departed this life on July 19, 2018.

He attended Dunbar High School where he wrote the song for his graduating class in 1963. His post graduate studies include Morgan State University and Community College of Baltimore.

He gave his life and service to Christ at an early age. His Christian journey began at The Cornerstone Baptist Church under Pastor I. Logan Kearse.

Tommy later joined Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church and served under Pastors Theodore C. Jackson, Sr., and Theodore C. Jackson, Jr. on the Deacon Board, music ministry and oversaw the radio broadcast. He then joined his wife becoming a member of The Church of the Redeemed of the Lord under the pastorate of Bishop Jerome Stokes and Lady Marsha Stokes.

### Professional Career:

Tommy served in the United States Army. As one of the first black presidential Honor Guards, he shared the story of seeing Robert Kennedy visiting his brother, President John F. Kennedy's gravesite in the wee hours of the morning.

He started his career at General Motors on the assembly line rising to the position of Vice President of local United Auto Workers (UAW) 239. His entrepreneurial spirit allowed him to create the record label TR Records, Inc.,

where he produced various artists, was a song writer and recording artist. Tommy later joined Coldwell Banker and became one of the top real estate agents for the company.

Music:

Tommy was one of the founding members of The Gospel Leaders, a group known throughout the gospel music industry. He was also instrumental in forming the Maryland Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA) in 1967.

He also ministered with Rev James Cleveland, Myrna Summers, Aretha Franklin, Shirley Caesar, Keith Pringle, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Edwin and Walter Hawkins, Douglas Miller, Timothy Wright, Charles Nicks, and many other artists.

Singing on the national stage for political events, sporting events, United Way Campaigns and United Auto Workers (UAW) conventions, Tommy never thought more of himself than he should, nor surrendered his calling to sing praises unto the Lord.

Of his many accomplishments, Tommy was the Founding President of The American Gospel Music Heritage Foundation. The foundation was largely responsible for the placement of the statue of renowned announcer "Aunt" Pauline Wells Lewis into the Great Blacks and Wax Museum.

Tommy wrote and produced for many artists and choirs. His nationally recognized song "I'm in the Capable Hands of God" is still a choir favorite. His rendition of "America" was produced for a national audience.

Tommy lived life to the fullest. He loved God, music ministry, family, traveling, cooking, fine dining, and following the path that God designed for him.

Precious memories will forever linger in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved Tommy. He leaves to celebrate a life well lived his wife, Alice Marie Loving Roberts; son Thomas (Randy) R. Roberts, Jr., (wife Wanda and mother Barbara); daughter, Hope O'Neil; grandchildren, Ra'Aunna, Randi, Kaleb, Ryan, and Rylie; in laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and a host of relatives and friends.



# Cemetery Details

## Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road  
Owings Mills, MD

# Previous Events

## viewing

JUL 27. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110  
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

## Family Hour

JUL 27. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110  
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

## Wake

JUL **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Church Of The Redeemed  
4321 Old York Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21212

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas R. Roberts Sr.*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *While searching for friends from my past today, I discovered Thomas' obituary and was immediately saddened to learn that Thomas had passed in 2018. He and I served together in the Old Guard at Fort Myer, VA. His voice was always heard in the barracks. I especially remember him singing Brother James Cleveland's "Deep Down In My Heart" as the rest of us stood in awe.*

*I talked with Thomas by phone when I found him in the early 2000s and he seemed to be the same genuinely sincere and gracious gentleman I knew in 1967.*

*My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and I know the Lord has a special place for Thomas alongside the angels and saints in heaven. God Bless and Rest In Peace my friend.*

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**Jim Branson** - August 14, 2021 at 12:49 PM



“ *Our condolences and sympathy goes out to Sister Roberts and the entire family. We will greatly miss Thomas. He really touched our lives with his kind spirit and ability to sing. We will continue to keep the entire family in our prayers. May God comfort, strengthen, and give you peace to make it through this difficult time. Robert & Erica Tally*

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**Rob Tally** - July 27, 2018 at 12:01 AM



*Just found this obituary and am deeply saddened to learn of Thomas' passing.*

*We were soldiers together in the Old Guard at Fort Myer, VA. I especially remember him singing in the barracks Brother James Cleveland's "Deep Down In My Heart". Every man stopped to listen. I talked with Thomas when I found him in the early 2000s and he seemed to be the same genuine sincere and kind gentleman I had known in 1967.*

*God Bless his family and may the Lord find a place for him with the angels and saints.*

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**Jim Branson** - August 14, 2021 at 12:29 PM

LB

“ *Lee and Ruby Barton purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas R. Roberts Sr..*



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**Lee and Ruby Barton** - July 25, 2018 at 05:17 PM

SA

“ *It is with deep sorrow that I learned of Tommie's passing. He will be missed. I pray that your memories of him will comfort you in your hour of bereavement and that God will grant you peace. Stella Adams*

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**Stella Adams** - July 24, 2018 at 11:41 AM



“ *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.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - July 23, 2018 at 09:51 AM