

Obituary

Mr. James F. Thompson was born in Columbia, SC on January 22, 1921. He was the fifth of eight children born to Laura Lorick Thompson and William Jefferson Thompson. He departed this life on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

Mr. Thompson graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1939. After graduation, he joined his father at Southern Railroad for a couple of years, but decided that wasn't the career for him. He then joined the Army, where he served as a military policeman for three years. Mr. Thompson found his career niche after becoming a civil service employee at Fort Jackson, where he worked for 30 years. His highly accomplished work skills and leadership abilities led to his becoming the first Black Supervisor in the Tent Canvas and Webbing Division.

Mr. Thompson was married to the former Daisy Brown on July 15, 1941. They were married for 75 years, at the time of her passing in September 2016. That was a love story for the ages.

Mr. Thompson was a lifelong member of Emmanuel A.M.E. Church, the only church in which he has held membership and which he served faithfully for over 80 years. His father, Mr. William Thompson, laid the cornerstone for the original edifice. Mr. Thompson's dedication to the church is reflected in the many ways he served throughout the years. He was a Trustee, a Steward, and a Pastor's Steward. Mr. Thompson founded the Men's Club and the Men's Choir, and served as president of the Senior Choir for many years. He was also one of the founding members of the Emmanuel/Drew Senior Citizens Club, which started at Emmanuel Church. He strongly advocated for the church's name to remain as part of the group's official name when the club expanded citywide.

Mr. Thompson was a member of the Sons of Allen, a group of men who sing at various church conferences. Mr. Thompson has received many certificates and awards for his dedicated service to Emmanuel. Over the years, he could be called on anytime, day or night, to attend to the needs of the church. In 2008, he was recognized as an Unsung Hero of Emmanuel by the Lay Organization. In June 2022, the youth scholarship fund was named the Brother James F. Thompson Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Thompson was well celebrated at his 100th birthday last year. He was surprised and humbled by the festive drive through celebration and the accolades accorded him. In addition to a proclamation from the City Council, he received a key to the city, and January 22, 2021, was declared James F. Thompson Day in Columbia. The staff of C.A. Johnson High School honored him with a personalized Green Hornet athletic jacket, which he held with great pride.

Mr. Thompson had a great love for his family. They were his pride and joy. He also had a great love for people. Mr. Thompson had a great sense of humor and could catch you off guard with his natural wit as he shared his stories. For example, in trying to remember someone's name during one of his recent stories he said "the clock is ticking but it's not stopping anywhere" or another time, when he realized he had overly complicated assessing a refrigerator repair he said "I'm sitting here looking wise, and acting otherwise."

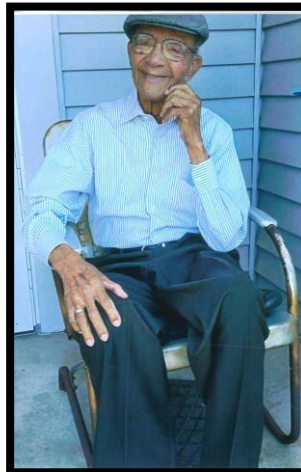
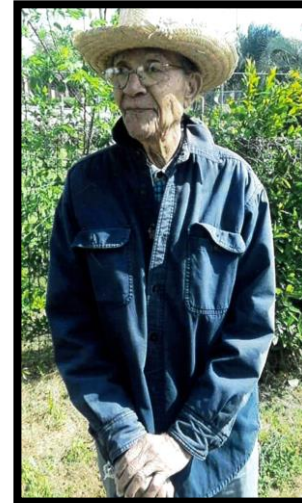
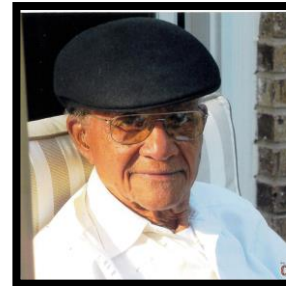
Mr. Thompson was an avid gardener. He planted three large gardens every year until well into his 80s. He loved music and poetry and was often called on to share a poem during church programs. One of his favorite poems included the words, "let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." And he did just that. He loved sitting on his front porch, ready to visit with neighbors, friends and staff of C.A. Johnson High School who regularly stopped by to spend time with their "buddy."

Mr. Thompson was predeceased by: his beloved wife, Daisy Brown Thompson; his parents, William Jefferson Thompson and Laura Lorick Thompson; his brothers, William Earl, Edgar, Richard Carroll, and Hubert Thompson; sisters, Anne Ellinger, Olive Leake, and Sarah White.

Left to mourn his passing are: his daughters, Thedra Bullock, Laura Hall, Frances Thompson, Levora Gray, and LaTonya Rish; his sons-in-law, Floyd Bullock and Laddie Gray; ten grandchildren, Dalita and James (Heather) Bullock, Stephanie Solomon, Ina (Fred) Solomon Anderson, Jamal, Yusef and Turiya Gray, Alstreater, Jessica and Brandon Rish; three great-grandchildren, Brandon Rish II, Londyn Rish, and Christian Bullock, and step-great-grandson, ZyMoon Gillespie-Anderson; loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; many other loving relatives and caring friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And he delights in his way.
Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.
Psalm 37:23-24*

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

- Prelude
- Processional..... "I'll Will Trust In The Lord"
- Viewing Funeral Directors
- Hymn of Praise..... "Talking About Jesus"
- Prayer of Comfort..... Reverend Cynthia Vertell Brown
Retired Pastor, United Methodist Church
- Old Testament Psalm 34: 1-8..... Reverend Henry L. Edmonds, Jr.
Pastor, Union Baptist Church
- New Testament II Timothy 4: 5-8..... Reverend Dr. Vincent Johnson
Associate Pastor, Emmanuel A.M.E. Church
- Selection "Going Up Yonder"
- Reflections Mrs. Laura Thompson Hall, *Daughter*
Mr. Floyd Bullock, *Son-in-law*
Reverend Florence Butler, *Associate Pastor, Emmanuel A.M.E. Church*
Mrs. Dorothy S. Roberson, *President Emmanuel/Drew Senior Citizens Club*
Ms. M. L. Kohn, *Retired Teacher-C. A. Johnson H.S./ Community*
- Selection "Learning To Lean"
- Words of Comfort Reverend Tim McKinzie
- Recessional..... "When We All Get To Heaven"
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

1:00 p.m.

**Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina**