

# Obituary

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.” -II Timothy 4: 6-7

Major (Ret) Howard Thomas, Sr. was born on August 15, 1959, in Marion SC, to the late Henry and Martha M. Thomas. He entered eternal rest on Monday March 30, 2026.

Howard graduated from Marion High School in Marion SC. He was a proud 1981 graduate of South Carolina State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, with a minor in Computer Science. During his collegiate years he was member of the Purging Rifles Military Fraternity. Upon graduation from South Carolina State University, he was commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army. Howard was very well traveled with the United States Army. From overseas to his final duty station at Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC. He retired from the United States Army 1992. From there he began his employment with the Columbia Housing Authority for 27 years, where he dedicated his career to the service of others as the Deputy Director.

Howard was preceded in death by his wife, Sally D. Thomas; his son, Howard Thomas Jr.; and his stepson, Mario Finklea.

Surviving to cherish his loving memory are: his loving wife, Carrie Thomas; daughters, Nyccole Thomas of Columbia, SC and Anntoynette Thomas of Columbia, SC; stepsons, Dr. Rondrick Williamson, of Atlanta, GA and Terrance T. (Valerie) Williamson, of Columbia, SC; brother, Melvin (Bettie) Thomas of Marion, SC; sisters, Ella (Kenny) Miller of Boyds, MD and Janie Thomas of Marion, SC; six grandchildren whom he loved deeply, SaRia D. McKinley, Damoni J. English, Nikita S. Thomas, Ashley N. Williamson, Terrance Williamson II, and Jasmine J. Williamson; his best friend for over 60 years, Bobby Brown of Marion, SC; a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

# Memories



# Order of Service

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026 -11:00 a.m.**  
**Oak Grove Baptist Church**  
**2603 Old Two Notch Road, Columbia, South Carolina**  
**Reverend Dr. Willie J. Thompson, Jr., Pastor**



- Prelude
- Processional
- Opening Hymn
- Old Testament.....Psalm 23.....Deacon Isaac Strong
- New Testament.....John 14:1-6...Reverend Audrey Levy
- Prayer.....Deacon Donnie Blanding
- Musical Selection.....Deacon James Woods
- Presentation...Chaplain Christel Wilson, VFW Post 4262
- Musical Selection.....“I’m Free”
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Gladys Ball
- Viewing.....*In the Vestibule*.....Funeral Directors
- Recessional
- Postlude



## Committal, Benediction and Interment

**1:00 P.M.**  
**Fort Jackson National Cemetery**  
**4170 Percival Road**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

## I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid  
you see.

I took His hand when I heard him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much  
Good friends, good times, a loved  
one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue  
grief.

Lift up your hearts and peace to thee  
God wanted me now; He set me free.

## Pallbearers

United States Army Honor Guard

## Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

## Acknowledgement

We, the family of Major (Ret) Howard Thomas, Sr., would like to thank each of you for your prayers, love, and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.

CONTACT US:  
Taylor Street Chapel  
803-771-7799  
Lower Richland Chapel  
803-776-6922  
WWW.LEEVY.COM  
I. S. Leevy Johnson  
Chris Leevy Johnson  
Levante A. Williams, II

Services Entrusted To:

**Leevy's**

Chris Leevy Johnson  
Managing Director


Levante A. Williams, II  
General Manager

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY



*Homegoing Service  
In Loving Memory  
of*

MAJOR (RET) HOWARD THOMAS, SR.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026  
11:00 A.M.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
2603 TWO NOTCH ROAD  
ELGIN, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND DR. WILLIE J. THOMPSON, JR.  
-PASTOR-