

God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.

He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,
He knew that you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you did not go alone...
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The family of Deacon Thomas Lester Haynes extends our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, support and kindness shown to us during this difficult time. To everyone who visited, prepared meals, sent cards, or offered words of comfort, please know how much we appreciate the love you shared and by knowing how deeply our father was cherished and how fondly he will be remembered. May God bless each of you.

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Services Entrusted To



Chris Leevy Johnson
Managing Director

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY



Levrette A. Williams, II
General Manager

Home Going Services In Loving Memory of Mr. Thomas Lester Haynes



Friday, July 3, 2026
11:00 A.M.

**Bible Way Church of Atlas
Road**

2440 Atlas Road
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Travis Haynes
-Officiating-

Obituary
of
Mr. Thomas Lester Haynes

Deacon Thomas Lester Haynes began his earthly journey on August 12, 1947, and peacefully entered eternal rest on Saturday, June 19, 2026, at the age of 78.

Thomas Lester Haynes, affectionately known as “Tommy” or “Deacon Haynes,” was born in Richland County, South Carolina, to the late Deacon Robert Haynes and Lessie M. Haynes. He was educated in the Richland County School District. As the eldest son and second oldest of twelve children, Tommy often shared humorous stories about growing up in a house with ten sisters and his younger brother, Michael. One of his favorite stories was about waking up extra early just to get to the bathroom before all his sisters did. Those stories always brought laughter to everyone around him and reflected the joy with which he remembered his childhood.

For many years, Thomas worked in the machinery department at General Felt Industries, where he faithfully dedicated himself until his retirement. Away from work, Tommy was a man who found joy in life’s simple pleasures. He loved taking long drives, listening to music, walking through the mall, enjoying his favorite honey buns, and spending time watching the news and The Jennifer Hudson Show. Two of his favorite places to eat were Lizard’s Thicket and Waffle House, and in his later days, he often sent Shaun on food runs to satisfy one of his many cravings.

He also had a special love for the holidays. Those special occasions often found him in the kitchen preparing some of his signature desserts, including his famous sweet potato pies, creamy banana pudding, and what many considered to be the best bread pudding around. Family, friends, and neighbors would come from near and far just to get a taste of his bread pudding, often placing special orders to take with them wherever they were headed. It was simply that good.

Thomas was also a gifted songwriter who found great joy in singing and ministering alongside his youngest son, Pastor Travis T. Haynes. Together, they formed the gospel group The Keys of Faith and recorded two songs. One of the congregation’s favorite selections was “Dance Like David.” Whenever Tommy sang that song, his face would light up with pure joy. Before long, he would be dancing, singing, and praising God with all of his heart, and the entire church would be rejoicing right along with him. His praise was genuine, infectious, and unforgettable.

Deacon Haynes was a faithful servant of the Lord who believed in working wherever his hands found something to do. Whether he was driving the late Pastor Eliza Brown to her preaching engagements, maintaining the church building, mentoring young deacons, playing the drums, singing in the choir, or making sure members arrived home safely after service, he served with humility, excellence, and love. Throughout the years, he faithfully labored alongside and supported several pastors, including the late Pastor Eliza Brown, Bishop Russell K. Davenport, Reverend Marvin G. Gattling, and his son, Pastor Travis T. Haynes. His life was a testimony that ministry is not only found in the pulpit, but also in faithful service behind the scenes.

Thomas first married the late Mattie Weston Haynes, and from that union were born two sons, Thomas L. Haynes Jr. and Shaun Haynes. He later married Sharon Bradford Haynes, and from their union came Travis and Shaniya. He also lovingly embraced two bonus children, Kareem Franklin and Lisa Franklin, whom he cherished as his own.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, Deacon Robert Haynes and Lessie M. Haynes; his brother, Michael Haynes; and his sister, Beverly Elaine Hamilton.

He leaves to cherish his precious memory his children: Thomas L. Haynes Jr., Shaun Haynes, Pastor Travis T. Haynes, Shaniya F. Haynes, Kareem Franklin, and Lisa Franklin; 15 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; nine sisters; two brothers-in-law; and a host of beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members, church family, and dear friends, whose lives were forever touched by his love, kindness, laughter, and unwavering faith.

Although our hearts are heavy, we rejoice in knowing that Tommy’s labor is finished, his race has been run, and he now rests safely in the presence of the Lord. His legacy of service, laughter, generosity, music, and love will continue to live on in all who knew him.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

- Prelude
- Processional
- ViewingFuneral Directors
- Old Testament.....Elder Brandon Glover
- Psalm 121*
- New TestamentElder Nelson Tyshan Jones
- John 14:1-6*
- Prayer of Comfort.....Senior Elder Randolph Franklin
- Song of Praise.....Bible Way Church
- Reflections.....A Family Member
- A Friend
- Sermonic Selection.....Bible Way Church
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Travis Haynes
- Committal
- Benediction
- Recessional
- Postlude

