

Obituary
of
Mrs. Rebecca Hemingway Thomas

Mrs. Rebecca Hemingway Thomas peacefully received her heavenly wings on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. Born June 8, 1944, in the Brittons Neck Community of Marion, South Carolina, Rebecca was the cherished daughter of the late Dozier Hemingway and Nancy Richardson Hemingway. She was a proud graduate of Brittons Neck High School in Marion, South Carolina, and later earned a bachelor’s degree in library science from Benedict College, in Columbia, South Carolina. Rebecca was united in marriage to the love of her life, the late SFC Jeff Thomas III. As a devoted military spouse, she was blessed with the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the world. She treasured those experiences and delighted in sharing her memories and stories with her family and friends back home in South Carolina.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, SFC Jeff Thomas III; two brothers, Woodrow Hemingway, Sr. and Willie Lee Hemingway; and one sister, Evelyn White.

Rebecca was a loving wife, devoted mother, proud grandmother, caring sister, aunt, cousin, and faithful friend whose life was marked by service, kindness, and compassion. She never met a stranger. She was known for her warm spirit, welcoming smile, compassionate heart, and uplifting words of encouragement that touched the lives of everyone she encountered. Through her kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith, she left a lasting impression on countless family members, friends, colleagues, and members of her community.

Rebecca began her career with the Marion County School District, where she served as a media specialist for two years. She later dedicated many years of faithful service as a youth counselor at the Fort Jackson Youth Center, where she poured her heart into mentoring, guiding, and encouraging young people until her retirement. Her passion for helping youth extended far beyond her profession and into the community she so dearly loved. In her early years, Rebecca was a devoted member of Bethel AME Church in the Brittons Neck community of Marion, S.C. After relocating to Columbia S.C., she joined Second Nazareth Baptist Church, where she worshipped faithfully until declining health prevented her from attending. Her faith remained a guiding force throughout her life. In addition to her church service, she was a proud and dedicated member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the United Order of the Tents, #215, where she exemplified a spirit of service, sisterhood, and community involvement. She was a national Grand Past Senior Matron in the United Order of Tents.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory: her loving son, Jeff F. Thomas IV of Columbia, South Carolina; one beloved grandson, Tiyon Davis of Columbia, South Carolina; one sister, Ethel H. Farmer of Conway, South Carolina; one brother, Isaac Hemingway of Gresham, South Carolina; one sister-in-law, Susie A. Hemingway of Johnsonville, SC; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other loving relatives, and dear friends ,who will forever treasure her memory Although she will be deeply missed, her legacy of faith, love, and service will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Memories



Order of Service

- Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Opening Hymn..... “Every Praise”
Recording By: Hezekiah Walker
- Scripture Readings.....Minister
Old Testament – Psalm 23
New Testament – Matthew 11:28-30
- Prayer.....Minister
- Selection.....“Soon and Very Soon”
Recording By: Andrae Crouch
- Remarks.....Ms. Yolanda Farmer, Niece
Mr. Samuel Farmer, Jr., Nephew
Ms. Lillian Taylor & Ms. Donella Wilson, Order of Tents #215
Deacon Isaac Moore, Sr., SNBC
- Selection.....“Goodness of God”
Recording By: CeCe Winans
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Johnny Ray Noble, PhD
- Recessional..... “I Shall Wear A Crown”
Recording By: Yolanda Deberry
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

Greenlawn Memorial Gardens
7100 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, South Carolina

Her Smile Lives On

A beautiful smile, so warm and bright,
A gentle heart that shared God's light.
Though you are gone from earthly sight,
Your love still shines both day and night.

Your smile remains in every heart,
A treasured gift that won't depart.
It comforts us through tears we cry,
A glimpse of Heaven drawing nigh.

We'll cherish every memory made,
For love can never truly fade.
Until we meet in Heaven above,
We'll remember your smile and your endless
love

Matthew 11:28-30

28, Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29, Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30, For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The family of Mr. Will Peterson would like to extend an overwhelming thank you to everyone. We gratefully acknowledge and deeply appreciate your prayers, your many acts of kindness, calls, expressions of love, sympathy, and condolences during this most difficult time. Our hearts are broken, but we find comfort in knowing what you all have done for our family.

Homegoing Celebration for Mrs. Rebecca Hemingway Thomas



Thursday, July 30, 2026
11:00 A.M

Second Nazareth Baptist Church
2300 Elmwood Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Johnny Ray Noble PhD
-Officiating-

CONTACT US:
Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799
Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922
WWW.LEEVY.COM
I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner-

Services Entrusted To:

Leevy's

Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-