



## Geoffrey C. Thomas

March 9, 1950 - December 8, 2016

On March 9, 1950 in Alexandria, Virginia, Gerald and Elsie Thomas were blessed with a special bundle of joy they named Geoffrey Carleton. This blessing transitioned from this life to life everlasting on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia surrounded by his loving wife and family.

Geoffrey, aka “Bosco”, “Spook”, and finally “Spider” was educated in the Alexandria Public School System having attended Charles-Houston Elementary, Parker-Gray and George Washington High Schools. He was a typical mischievous student whose personality got him in and out of a lot of trouble. He went on to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps and was medically discharged after serving in Viet Nam.

In 1982, he married the former Lorraine Farrow. From this union was born two children. Even though the marriage ended in divorce, they successfully co-parented their children into adulthood.

Jeff’s life was an adventure — of course that’s putting it mildly. His adventures caused him to visit and be boarded at an array of different “schools”. It was at one of his school visits that he met his best friend and the love of his life, Mary Lee Saunders. If ever two people were ordained by God to be together — it was these two. They loved each other unconditionally, had great respect for

each other's gifts and talents and as one of his sisters commented — “They are matching bookends”!

Jeff was our modern day Paul. He lived his life on his terms until God, in His own way and time, began to nudge him toward his destined assignment. Jeff embraced the love of God and developed a love for God's people. While living in Hardeville, South Carolina, he joined Greater Pentecostal Temple under the pastorate of Rev. Delores Young. He was an active participant at the church particularly with the Missions, Men's Ministry, Outreach Ministry and was the church's #1 Chef. Upon relocating to his hometown, Alexandria, Virginia, he and his loving wife joined the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. Albert P. Jackson. At Ebenezer, Geoffrey was not a pew sitter. He was an active participant in all facets of the church. He was the Chairman of the men's ministry (The Brotherhood), Sunday School teacher and leader of the Small Group Initiative. From the Small Group Initiative, God laid it on Jeff's heart to start a Bible Study based out of Booker T's Barber Shop on Queen Street. What started as a Small Group ministry grew into a weekly Bible Study Ministry with 30+ men at the barber shop. It recently celebrated its two-year anniversary.

He was most recently employed by the Alexandria Pest Control Company as a Licensed Technician. He thoroughly enjoyed his work. In his spare time, he loved to showcase his culinary skills. He was an excellent cook!!!

Geoffrey loved and adored his wife, his children, grandchildren, his “Rock Star” sisters (as he called them), all of his nieces and nephews to include greats and great-greats, and his entire family. He has been referred to as the “Gentle Giant”, but he became the “Man Among Men” that God promised his mother, the one and only “Ms. Elsie” the day he was born. We will miss his physical presence, but we are comforted in knowing that he is resting with God having completed his assignment and hearing God say — “Well done,

thy good and faithful servant”.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his loving wife and best friend, Rev. Mary Lee Thomas, two sons, Dawud Farrow and Lamar Edmondson; one daughter, Karie Shena Thomas; five grandchildren: Thomas J. Farrow, Khole, Kaleb, and Kali Smith and Semaja Edmondson; five sisters: Minister Becky Mays Jenkins, Liz Dixon, Kim Smith-Roberson, Polly Green and Sandy Hawkins and his favorite “sister-cousin”, Dr. Thea James; two godchildren: Kevoni Taylor and Trevor Mays; one uncle, Deacon William Charity; one aunt, Marjorie Burts (Albert “Eggie” Burts); 7 brother-in-laws; 3 sister-in-laws; nieces, nephews, cousins and a community of loving friends; He was predeceased by his mother and father, his sister, Vernie Wanzer, and his nephew, Bruce Wanzer.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
909 Queen Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

# Tribute Wall

SA

“ Geoffrey was in the age group of my brother Kayo. I was the youngest of the Avery clan, so Geoffrey was one of the community big brothers. He always shared a smile which would light up your Soul. Words of encouragement. I shall think on him often. Thank u for being part of my family and sharing your family with us. Until we meet again.

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**Shirley Avery** - December 19, 2016 at 10:15 AM

DH

“ It is often said to hold your memories close. I will remember his smile and that warm hug he gave me when we last met. We are saddened by his passing but we are grateful for his life and his friendship. Our heartfelt sympathies to the family. Johnnie & Deborah Hackett

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**Deborah Hackett** - December 14, 2016 at 08:15 AM