



Mary Thornes

December 18, 1945 - September 26, 2024

Obituary for Mary Ann Thornes

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mary Ann Thornes, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, who passed away on September 26, 2024, at Downstate Hospital. Born on December 18, 1945, in South Hill, Virginia, Mary lived a life filled with love, perseverance, and an unwavering dedication to her family and community.

Mary was the eldest daughter of Ollie Rose Thornes and John Henry Thornes and a loving sister to Maddie, Katherine, Dolores, Ann, Glenn, Charlie, and Johnnie. She grew up in South Hill, Virginia, where she learned the value of hard work by helping her family pick cotton and tobacco in the fields. In 1968, Mary moved to New York City in search of better opportunities, marking the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

As a mother, Mary's love and devotion to her two sons, David (born in 1969) and Raheem Thornes (born in 1978), was unwavering. She poured her heart into raising them, providing a nurturing and supportive home. Her role as a mother extended into becoming a devoted grandmother to her beloved granddaughters, Niesha and Sherece Ellis, who brought her immense joy and pride. They were the light of her life, and she cherished every moment spent with them.

Mary was a stay-at-home mom until 2007, after which she transitioned into a career as a home health attendant, where her caring nature touched the lives of many. In 2018, after 11 years as a home attendant, Mary retired, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and service.

A woman of many talents, Mary was an exceptional cook, known for generously sharing her culinary creations. One of many cherished memories is of her purchasing food to feed her neighbors during a blackout, as well as preparing home-cooked meals for her sons' friends who did not have food during the holidays. Her kindness and willingness to help others were defining characteristics of her life.

Though mild-mannered, Mary was never one to shy away from speaking the truth. She stood firm in her values, holding herself and others accountable because she knew the potential within everyone. She was outspoken, yet respectful, and her sense of humor and straightforwardness left a lasting impression on those around her. With an intuition that never failed her, she always seemed to know when something was wrong and offered wisdom with care and love.

Mary had a deep love for music, especially gospel, and was an avid fan of Tina Turner and Millie Jackson. She loved to dance, always finding joy in music, no matter the challenges she faced. She remained mindful of her community, often the first to speak up when something was wrong, striving to make the world a better place in her own way.

Her favorite phrase, "I'm OK, baby," became a symbol of her resilience. Even in difficult times, she reassured those around her that she was strong and could face any challenge that came her way.

Mary leaves behind a legacy of hard work, strength, and love. She taught us that no matter how tough life may be, you can rise above it with grace, determination, and a generous heart. She will be deeply missed by her family, her friends, and all who had the privilege to know her. Her spirit lives on in the lives she touched, and we take comfort in knowing that she is at peace.

Rest in peace, Mary Ann Thornes. You will forever remain in our hearts.

Previous Events

Service

OCT 5. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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