



Dr. Marion C. Pete Thomas

April 2, 1950 - March 11, 2021

Courage, faith-filled, and strength are all words that describe Dr. Marion C. “Pete” Thomas, who went from Labor to Reward on Thursday, March 11, 2021 with his loved ones by his side. He was born April 2, 1950 to the late Rev. Hansel Frank Thomas Sr. and Mother Ethel Elizabeth. Affectionately known as “Pete”, Dr. Thomas attended Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Schools, and graduated from Simon G. Atkins High School. He attended Winston-Salem State University, receiving his Bachelor's and later received Master's degree in Administration and his Doctoral Degree. Dr. Thomas was a faithful member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as Minister of Music for over 30 years. Under his leadership as Minister of Music, he started a Children's Choir which is still active today, organized the Youth Adult Choir now known as the W. M. Inspiration Choir, was a faithful member of the Intercession Prayer Ministry, and the Missionary Ministry. Dr. Thomas also served as the Minister of Music for First Baptist Church-Highland Avenue of Winston Salem.

His musical career spans for a century including teaching music to numerous groups and organizations while also receiving numerous awards. Dr. Thomas was a firm believer in the spirit of excellence and dignity, placing pride aside as a Masterful Pianist and Organist. He was a faithful contributor to the Gospel Music Workshop of America, founded by James Cleveland, for many years. In addition to a musical genius, he was a talented florist, serving at

Jan's Florist of Winston-Salem and as a Licensed Funeral Director Gilmore Memorial Funeral Homes for over 25 Years.

Dr. Thomas was no stranger to Music Ministries or the Hammond Organ specifically, serving many churches, choirs, congregations in the Triad to include St. Stephen's Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, Shiloh Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, First Emmanuel Baptist Church of High Point, First Baptist Church of High Point, Kimberly Park Holiness Church of Winston-Salem, Ambassador Cathedral of Winston-Salem, New Bethel Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church of Winston-Salem, Grace Presbyterian Church of Winston-Salem, the B.F. Daniels Gospel Choir, Union Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, The People's Choice AME Zion Church (now St. James Wesley AME Zion Church), Foster Grove Baptist Church of Jamestown, the award-winning Winston-Salem State University Gospel Choir, and many many more.

In addition to churches and congregations, he was the primary organist for the National Black Presbyterian Caucus Committee Revival of March 1998 held at Grace Presbyterian Church and was also the former accompanist for Voices of God's Children Choir at Grace Presbyterian Church. Throughout his life Dr. Thomas was a part of many church programs, city-wide events, and weddings. Never would he let you down unless it was a scheduling conflict.

Dr. Thomas served as a Professor of Music at Winston Salem State University and Wake Forest University. At Winston-Salem State University, he was an intricate part of the Upward Bound program and inspired the future of many students for countless years.

He was honored by many community organizations to include the National Women of Achievement, Inc. and Winston-Salem State University Department of Athletics. The receipt of many awards and achievements to include 1992

WALJO Award, 1992 Gospel Hall of Fame Award, and N.C.G.C.C., to name a few. This is just a small account of the many contributions “Pete” made to many churches, communities and organizations of the Piedmont-Triad Area.

Dr. Thomas took joy in teaching others cantatas, hymns and the Hallelujah Chorus he performed for many years in the Gospel Music Workshop of America, to which he was a member and instructor. He taught many workshops and took pride in helping others perfect their musical gifts. He encouraged them that through Christ they were more than enough and they could do anything that they put their heart, mind and work into.

Throughout his life he used his God given talents to write multiple songs and plays for several people including his group, The Queenette Gospel Singers and MPT's. Specifically, he wrote a song entitled “Fill My Cup” and wrote and directed the play entitled All for Me. He also served as the Choreographer for the Winston-Salem State University Class of 1977 Marching Band.

Without question, Dr. Thomas will be missed within the Piedmont-Triad Community, particularly Winston-Salem, and in the lives of those who he bestowed the gifts of Love, Wisdom, Tolerance.

His Precious Memories

Dr. Thomas leaves a legacy of showing others how to achieve greatness while always letting you know that it's only because of God. His favorite time of the year is Christmas. He was an excellent cook and absolutely loved family time which often included dancing, laughing, joking around, traveling, singing, and praising God. He encouraged everyone to get their education and that knowledge is power, as coined by the United Negro College Fund motto, “A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste”.

He was a devoted brother, son, friend, uncle, musician, counselor.

Dr. Thomas leaves to cherish his memories one sister, Mrs. Iantha (Deacon Charles) Jenkins of Lexington; brother, Mr. Hansel F. Thomas, Jr. of the city; one sister in love Ms. Helen Thomas of the city. Three Faithful God Sisters Mrs. Mag (Deacon Frank) Oglesby of the city, Ms. Viola Thompson of the city, Ms. Gloria Jean Jackson. Personal healthcare team Ms. Dexteria Jenkins and daughter Alona, his "Wife" Dwanna Agnew, "Daughter," Shameka Hillian; nephew, Joshua Thomas, nieces Dr. Telisha Roberts (Nelson Sr.), Tonya Thomas, Cassandra Thomas; cousin, Carol Samuels; a host of loving caregivers to include the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Nursing Ministry, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Special thank you to Dr. Rebecca Omlor, Dr. James Pirkle Jr. and Northside Dialysis Staff.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bethlehem Baptist Church
1711 North Claremont Ave.
Winston Salem, NC 27105

Public Viewing

MAR 19. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bethlehem Baptist Church
1711 North Claremont Ave.
Winston Salem, NC 27105

Live Stream

MAR 20. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

<https://www.facebook.com/Gilmore-Memorial-Funeral-Service-Inc-114581216609586/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Gilmore Memorial Funeral Service created a Live Stream of Celebration of Life for Dr. Marion Thomas in memory of Dr. Marion C. Pete Thomas*



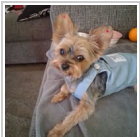
Gilmore Funeral Home - March 20, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ *John Watts lit a candle in memory of Dr. Marion C. Pete Thomas*

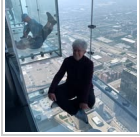


John watts - March 24, 2021 at 01:22 PM



“ *He was a wonderful organist. Loved to hear him play music. Sending my condolences to his family.*

Shawn Yvette Easter - March 20, 2021 at 07:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Hei Andr - March 20, 2021 at 03:24 PM

DE

Thank you so much. To hear his voice today. Dexteria(niece)

dexteria - December 15, 2021 at 04:23 AM

AM

“ *Dr. Marion Pete Thomas was a dear friend with a good heart who would help anyone.
I will always remember his great contribution to music that he shared with others . He will always be remembered.*

Annetta McIntosh - March 20, 2021 at 10:59 AM

DE

I apologize this took this long. Thank you for your continued prayers for our family

dexteria - December 15, 2021 at 04:25 AM

MM

“ *Mary Mark lit a candle in memory of Dr. Marion C. Pete Thomas*



Mary Mark - March 19, 2021 at 10:14 PM

CM

“ *Cindy Miller lit a candle in memory of Dr. Marion C. Pete Thomas*



Cindy Miller - March 19, 2021 at 08:14 PM

HB

“ *To Dr. Marion "Pete" Thomas:*

We thank you for the many years that you served as our organist/pianist. Your style of playing inspired us to sing better than we really were. You made stars of us all. We love you for that! You will always have a special place in our hearts. May God honor you with a place in His Heavenly Choir. Play on, Dr. Pete!

*The Men's Chorus
First Baptist Church
Deacon Harold Brown
President*

Harold Brown - March 18, 2021 at 01:03 PM

AH

“ *Dr. Thomas, affectionately known to us as Pete. Our hearts are saddened, but we know heaven is rejoicing. We have fun memories of Mars Hill back in the day and your service to others down through the years. You will be missed.*



The Bradley, Hauser Family

Anna B Hauser - March 18, 2021 at 12:55 PM

CL

“ Pete as we always called him until he became Dr. Pete will be greatly missed by so many. That smile will be missed. His willingness to share his musical talents to bless so many while his fingers scrolled across those piano keys sent chills through you. Heaven has received a good one with loads of talent and he will be missed!!!

The Landrum Family

Christie D Landrum - March 18, 2021 at 11:14 AM

DM

Never forgotten. Always a ready smile, encouragement, concerned that youth have opportunities, sharing his talents, friend. A Renaissance man.

Dr Cecilia McDaniel - March 18, 2021 at 11:57 AM

RS

“ Dr. Pete Marion was a super great person that always greeted you with a smile. That smile and that great musical gift will be greatly missed.

Rudy Hill sr and family.

Rudy Hill sr. - March 17, 2021 at 09:11 PM

DJ

Pete as I have always called him was a wonderful, dedicated friend. His musical talents will remain with us. He will be truly be missed. We love you and will miss you my dear friend. Rest in peace.

Delphine Jones - March 18, 2021 at 12:38 AM

SI

dr. Marion was always gifted and talented from his younger days, He taught me so much. Musically, he was wise, considerate, and kind. His presence will be missed. You contributed so much. You will be missed.
Reverend Sharon Isaiah

Sharon Isaiah - March 19, 2021 at 07:05 PM

DF

“*Please accept our sincere sympathy in the passing of Dr. Marion "Pete" Thomas. He was a wonderful person and a gifted musician. We were blessed with his presence and the moving inspirations from his music. He will truly be missed in our community now that his fingers are silenced here on earth. However, he plays now for the angels in God's Heavenly Choir. May he rest in the arms of God in eternal peace.*

Deacon Dexter A. Felder
First Baptist Church

Dexter A. Felder - March 17, 2021 at 06:13 PM

ED

“ Thomas Family,

Our heart felt sympathy in the loss of our former neighbor and friend.

I have many wonderful memories

From Ansonia Street, choirs, working together on music for weddings, and more. His willingness to share his musical talents to bless so many is part of a legacy that will be remembered.

*Grace and Peace,
Emma Blue Davis
and the entire Blue Family*

Emma Blue Davis - March 17, 2021 at 11:25 AM

JM

Pete will truly missed thur out the city what a wonderful musician. Rest in peace.

Janice Morgan - March 18, 2021 at 04:00 PM

LP

*Praying for the Thomas family.
May all memories of "Pete" be a Blessing!
Rest In Peace dear "Pete" we love you dearly ❤️🙏
THE POMPEYS*

Linda Pompey - March 18, 2021 at 07:15 PM

MH

I can remember as a youngster at Mt Calvary on 14th and Highland listeneing to the MPT,s . Oh, could they sing!!! rest in peace to such a musical giant. Prayers to the family

Monie Harris - March 20, 2021 at 03:17 AM

DE

To everyone here thank you for covering us in prayer during one of the most difficult times in our family. please continue to keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours. We are still processing this empty place in our hearts As well as the empty place left 30 days later with his sister Ms. Helen Thomas.

dexteria - December 15, 2021 at 04:29 AM