



Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton

September 30, 1958 - May 1, 2022

Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton

Debbie Thornton was born on September 30, 1958 to the late Viola Simon Hayes Green and Neal Hardy in Orange, Texas. She was then adopted by the late Deloris Simon Thornton Texada and Curlen Thornton. She was a resident of Palmetto, LA. She accepted Christ at an early age at St. John Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. F.R. Green. She later joined and began a member of New Pilgrim Baptist Church. She graduated from Palmetto High in 1975. Debbie later married Michael Brown. To this union a daughter, Samantha was born. On March 1, 1987, she gave birth to her twin daughters, Cassandra and Amanda, giving her the nickname "Twin Momma". Debbie then went to the University of Louisiana Lafayette (formerly known as USL) completing her bachelor's degree in Education in 1990. She became a teacher for the St. Landry Parish School System where she taught Special Education for 20 years. Her love for scholarship and service led her to pledge Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated in Spring 1992.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, May 7, 2022 at New Pilgrim Baptist Church, 132 Guidry Road, in Palmetto, LA 71358, for Mrs. Debbie Joyce Thornton, 63, who entered eternal rest, Sunday, May 1, 2022 at her residence in Palmetto, LA.

Interment will be in St. John Baptist Church Cemetery in the community of Bolden. Pastor Darrell Sampson will officiate the services.

Debbie leaves to mourn her twins, Amanda Thornton-Andrus (Yolanda) and

Cassandra Thornton Kennerson (Cedrick); one sister, Katherine Hayes-Smith; three brothers, Joe Nathan Hayes (Denise), John Henry Veil (Tracy) and James "Free" Freeman Green (Sandra). Debbie is a proud grandmother of three biological grandchildren, Jaleel Richard, Liam Thornton and Bella Offord; five step grandchildren, Javona Bolden, Caileigh Kennerson, Tybois Currette, Jr., Taylor Currette and Marleigh Kennerson; two best friends, Trudy Robinson and Karen Steele and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Samantha Brown; mothers, Deloris Simon Thornton Texada and Viola Simon Hayes Green; fathers, Curlen Thornton and Neal Hardy, three brothers, Herbert Veil, Gregory Al Vincent Hayes and Johnell Hayes; one sister, Brenda Gail Green Tanner and her best friend, Denise Rose.

The family would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the Dialysis Inc, of Opelousas.

Visiting hours will be observed from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Saturday, May 7, 2022 at New Pilgrim Baptist Church, 132 Guidry Road, Palmetto, LA 71358.

Share words of comfort with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Oh my goodness! I went on Facebook to check on my friend because I had not heard from her in so long only to find out she is no longer with us. I so wish I would've known. Debbie was a good friend and a great coworker. She was funny and brilliant and I loved her dearly! She was a real one. I will miss her terribly.

Until we meet again, rest in eternal peace. ❤️

Chanel

Chanel - October 13, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM

DM

“ RIP Deb. I will remember you and our Vegas trip forever, we had a ball , My condolences to the girls and all your family, your H-Town sis DeAndrea.

DeAndrea Mallett - October 19, 2022 at 02:03 PM

PG

“ To the twins and family condolences. Debbie and I met at USL and became fat friends. She Denise and I were so close. Denise and I pledged the same line of ZETA PHI BETA. Debbie and I caught up after Denise's service and planned to do lunch soon and we never got to it
We enjoyed a long back and forth with no mention of health issues. I am so sorry we didn't make that date. Kind hearted and funny...we enjoyed our college days on that campus. So many hilarious memories...I know Denise and Debbie are hugging in heaven...SO MUCH LOVE

Priscilla Godfrey-Charles - May 07, 2022 at 12:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton.



May 05, 2022 at 10:38 AM

LB

“ Lil Brown-Parker lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton



Lil Brown-Parker - May 05, 2022 at 09:40 AM

DE

“ To: *The family of Debbie Thornton*

Our prayers and condolences go out the family during this time of need as we are so sorry for your loss. Words right now seem so inadequate, but please know that we are here for you and pray that God will strengthen you.

*From: Delilah Elmore
Rebia T. Jackson*

Delilah Elmore - May 05, 2022 at 09:37 AM

BN

“ *My deepest condolences to Debbie's family. She and I worked together for years at Melville Elementary and then North Central High School. She was a wonderful lady. Rest in Heavenly Peace Ms. Thornton.*

~Mrs. Nall

Bridget Nall - May 05, 2022 at 07:14 AM

NH

“ *Natalie, Joe, Denise and Maria Hayes purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton.*



Natalie, Joe, Denise and Maria Hayes - May 04, 2022 at 09:28 PM

MM

“ *Mark&Ommanda Major lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton*



Mark&Ommanda Major - May 04, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton.*



May 04, 2022 at 05:00 PM

SS

“ *My deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences goes out to the family and friends. Nanny will keep you Cassandra and Amanda along with the rest of the family lifted in prayer. RIP sis.*

Sandra Smith - May 04, 2022 at 04:34 PM

RO

“ *RoseTanner lit a candle in memory of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton*



RoseTanner - May 04, 2022 at 02:37 PM

LJ

“ Condolences to the entire family May God give you strength to get through this grieving time.
Praying that y'all make it through. Praying 🙏
for strength. Love to all



LeeAnna Jones - May 03, 2022 at 09:21 PM

LN

“ Our sincere condolences to Amanda and my co-worker, Cassandra Kennerson . Keeping all of you in our prayers for strength and peace. Ms. Debbie was so proud of you girls, especially seeing Cassandra graduate from UL. Cherish the memories. 🙏❤️🙏
Always,
Farrell & Tisha Narcisse
FWCA



Letitia “Tisha” Narcisse - May 03, 2022 at 07:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton.



May 03, 2022 at 07:22 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ms. Debbie Joyce Thornton.



May 03, 2022 at 05:54 PM