



Pastor Raphael Thomas

April 4, 1951 - July 17, 2020

On Friday, July 17, 2020 Pastor Raphael “Ray” Thomas was called peacefully to eternal rest. Ray Thomas was born April 4, 1951 to the late Edward and Mildred Thomas in Lafayette LA.

After graduating from James Stephens High School in Ville Platte, LA, he earned a B.S. degree in Management from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA and moved to South Bend, IN where he met and married the love of his life Iris A. Smith.

Ray retired as Vice President of retail banking from 1st Source Bank in South Bend, Indiana. He also served on numerous boards throughout the community. Ray was a member of both the Kiwanis Club of South Bend and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Pastor Thomas gave his life to the Lord at an early age and was called to minister the gospel. He held several positions and served as a Minister and was ordained as an Elder at Saints Memorial Church of God in Christ. His most beloved profession was being the Pastor of Faith Temple Church of God in Christ. His life and ministry touched the lives of people all over the world.

Ray left behind a plentiful harvest of memories to cherish, honor and emulate for survivors: his loving wife of 46 years, Iris Thomas, 5 children, 19 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and a host of family and friends.

Ray was a well-respected man who brought joy and happiness to everyone that he encountered. We will all miss him.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, August 1, 2020 at St.

John Memorial Garden in Ville Platte, LA.

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

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Ville Platte, 337-363-8111.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pastor Raphael Thomas*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *To the Thomas, Deville, and Skinner families, my deepest sympathies go out to you. To his remaining siblings, Ray lived the life your parents raised him by. I can see MS. Mildred with that great wide smile as she welcomed him home; while shouting and praising God. Be glad that he is now resting from the toils and strife of this world. To his wife, children and extended family, God blessed you with a kind and gentle giant. Remember and cherish the many memories. Continue in his footsteps and know that one day you will see him again. I can't ever remember seeing Ray, or for that matter, none of the Thomas children, without a great big smile. To you, it may seem as a loss right now, but it's Heaven's gain.
Linda Marie Jones-Porter (Wilson)
Daughter & Son-in-law of the late Reverend & Mrs. C. J. (Florence) Jones*

Linda Jones-Porter - July 28, 2020 at 09:32 AM



“ *One thing I definitely remember about our Brother Raphael is that he would make a sharp turn anywhere to get some Church's Chicken. I really believe he is the one who got Charles and me hooked on it. 😊*

Charles and Dee - July 27, 2020 at 09:40 PM