



Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe

July 31, 1945 - July 4, 2020

Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe was born in Durham, North Carolina on July 31, 1945 to Johnny and Pauline Toomer who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by Edward Thorpe to whom she was married for thirty years. On the evening of Saturday, July 4, 2020, Paulette transitioned from this earthly life and entered into her eternal rest.

Paulette attended Hillside High School and graduated in 1963. Post-graduation, she attended Watts Hospital Nurse's Assistant Program and graduated in 1968. She spent her working career at Watts Hospital and Durham Regional Hospital retiring in February 2006. While employed at Durham Regional she was in charge of the Newborn Nursery for many years. Her knowledge and gentle spirit made it easy for the doctors and fellow nurses to consult with her and they respected her expertise with the infants.

At a very early age, Paulette joined New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. L.W. Reid. Later, she moved her membership to The Shepherd's Flock Baptist Church and served on the floral club and kitchen committee. God was first in Paulette's life. She adored her family and cherished her church family. She will be missed by her many friends. Paulette had such a sweet spirit, she was humorous, had an infectious smile and a personality larger than life. Her sense of fashion was always impeccable. Whenever Paulette entered a room, her presence filled the room. She was an avid NCCU Eagles, Duke Blue Devils and Dallas Cowboys fan.

Left to cherish her memories are her daughters, Jacqueline Bright Thompson, Anette Thorpe and Priscilla Womack (Freddie); sons, Edward Earl Thorpe, Jr. and Donzell Thorpe; sisters, Marie Toomer, Gloria Tyson (Vernon), Carol Harris and Roziland Toomer; brothers, James Toomer, Cleveland Toomer, Kent Toomer, Derrick Toomer, Danny Toomer, Tracy Toomer and Tyrone Toomer; eleven grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and a host of extended family members and friends.

Viewing for Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe will take place on Friday, July 10, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen

Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

A graveside service of celebration has been scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. at Beechwood Cemetery, 3300 Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC, 27707, with viewing from 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Pastor Wayne Wilhelm will be delivering the eulogy.

In every effort to protect our families and their guests, face coverings are required.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 10. 2:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.
309 N Queen St
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 682-1171
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

Graveside

JUL 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

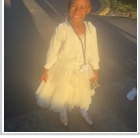
Beechwood Cemetery
3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Donna Price lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



Donna Price - July 12, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ *Elizabeth Jeffries lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



Elizabeth Jeffries - July 11, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ *I will never forget Ms Paulette Thorpe RIH love you always*

Andrea Flournah - July 11, 2020 at 02:57 PM



“ *What can I say about Paulette? Paulette and I go back to the days when my mother and her mother both worked in Hillside's cafeteria. That was many years ago. She always had something funny to say. She will be missed by all. Condolences to the family.*
Hilda Smith

Hilda Smith - July 11, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ *Charlotte Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



charlotte Patterson - July 11, 2020 at 10:29 AM

CP

*A candle to remember, may it burn ever so bright as we look to the heavens on this very night. Beyond the stars, our dear Paulette soars. Embraced by her savior on Heaven's Shores.
As the Angels protect her and sing her sweet name. I honor her life with the glow of this flame. So I light this candle for our Paulette tonight as a symbol of our love and her Eternal life
Your sister Charlotte Patterson*

charlotte Patterson - July 11, 2020 at 10:39 AM

WD

*“ I met Paulette while working at Durham Regional Hospital we became friends
She always had a smile for you and we always was kidding with each other about our time at work
Going to miss running into her at the store, mutual friends house or just passing on the street
REST IN PARADISE My Friend
Wanda Dawson*

Wanda Dawson - July 11, 2020 at 08:44 AM

EH

*“ To the family of Paulette Thorpe,
Our hearts are saddened by your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.
Etta Harris and Family*

Etta Harris - July 11, 2020 at 07:36 AM

FW

“ To the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe, I send my heartfelt condolences. My prayer is that God will surround you all with His love, peace and comfort now and in the days to come. You all will be in our prayers. From Floretta Liverpool Walls.



Floretta Walls - July 10, 2020 at 10:26 PM

BF

“ To each family member of Paulette, especially to my dear sister, Jean: My heart goes out to each of you during this difficult time. Paulette is someone who is so special and will never be forgotten. Even though I'm confined at home, I am praying and thinking of you. May your good memories of Paulette give you peace and comfort. With love and friendship. Betty Kelly, Shawn, Jasmine, and Khloe.



Betty Kelly & family - July 10, 2020 at 08:16 PM

BE

“ To the family of Paulette Thorpe: Dealing with loss is never easy. Please accept my deepest condolences for your family's loss. May each of you be comforted by the outpouring of love surrounding you. I am praying for you!



Barbara Engram (Betty Kelly's sister)

Barbara Engram - July 10, 2020 at 08:07 PM

H1

“ The Family of Donzell Thorpe,
We extend our deepest condolences to you on your loss, along with our prayers of comfort and love.
The HHS Class of 1981 mourns with you.
Those we love remain with us
for love itself lives on...author unknown

HHS Class of 1981 - July 10, 2020 at 07:35 PM

HS

What can I say about Paulette and her untimely passing? Not enough time or words to express my feelings for her. Paulette and I go back to when her mother and my mother both worked in the Hillside cafeteria. Many years ago. Paulette was a character, always had something funny to say. She will be missed by all. She may be gone but never forgotten.

Hilda Smith

Hilda Smith - July 11, 2020 at 10:18 AM

RW

“ Dear Paulette was an outstanding nursing caregiver who taught this new nurse just starting out so much many years ago . At Watts Hospital and Durham Regional Hospital, she took excellent care of many new mothers and babies. Paulette’s sweet smile and fabulous personality was precious to all who worked with her. When I had my own baby , she took special care of us and I will never forget her for it. My condolences to all of you in your bereavement. I am so very sorry for your great loss . Rhonda Bowling Ward, LPN

Rhonda B Ward - July 10, 2020 at 06:56 PM

MS

“ To the Thorpe family we are deeply truly sad about your loss Paulette will be truly missed We really look forward to her visit to our home in Virginia. As we mourn her loss just know with Shirley and Paulette in the same place Heaven will never be the same.

With sincere Sympathy Mary& George Short Family

Mary Short - July 10, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ Fannie Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Fannie Wilson - July 10, 2020 at 05:18 PM



Classmate from class 1963 Hillside High

Fannie Wilson - July 10, 2020 at 05:20 PM

SW

“ WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY. BECAUSE WE CARE OUR WARMEST THOUGHTS GO OUT TO YOU TODAY. WITH MORE CONCERN THAN WE CAN EVER SAY. GOD PUCKED AN ANGEL THE WOMBLE AND JONES FAMILY

Shirley Womble - July 10, 2020 at 04:15 PM

JC

“ Jackie Cross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Jackie Cross - July 10, 2020 at 03:45 PM

DT

“ I worked in the same area at Durham Regional as Paulette. She was always a joy to be around. I loved her quick smart answers whenever you asked a question and then she would smile so beautiful. She truly was an inspiration and a wonderful person. I am So So Sad for the hurt and emptiness her family feels 🙏

Dolley. Torain - July 10, 2020 at 02:41 PM

BL

“ Beverly Little-Pierce lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Beverly Little-Pierce - July 10, 2020 at 02:05 PM

DP

Donald and I are truly sorry for your loss and we are praying that you all will find comfort in your time of sorrow. Mrs. Paulette always made me feel welcome when I attended Shepherd's Flock Baptist Church or if we happened to be at a cookout or some other function together. She was a beautiful person inside and out and we are glad for the times we had to share with her.

Donald & Beverly Pierce - July 10, 2020 at 02:14 PM



Already missing you

Tammy Cates - July 15, 2020 at 06:27 PM

TF

“ Tony And Monica McKnight And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Tony and Monica McKnight and Family - July 10, 2020 at 11:16 AM

IM

“ Isabelle McNeill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Isabelle McNeill - July 10, 2020 at 11:12 AM

CC

“ Carla Campbell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Carla Campbell - July 10, 2020 at 10:45 AM

KT

“ Kimberly Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Kimberly Taylor - July 10, 2020 at 10:29 AM

HL

“ Harriet Lyons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Harriet Lyons - July 10, 2020 at 10:08 AM

CW

“ I remember the day I first met Paulette at a friend’s house. She was so kind and full of life. Often times our paths crossed attending NCCU football games. She will be missed my many. To the entire family I extend my sincere condolences. Take solace in knowing that she is resting peacefully in the arms of our Savior. May God give all the strength today and days ahead to cope with your loss. I’ll remember her beautiful smile and sense of humor. 🙏❤️💕 Cynthia E. Wilson



Cynthia Edwards Wilson - July 10, 2020 at 08:40 AM

SD

“ Sandra Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Sandra Davis - July 10, 2020 at 04:08 AM

AT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Angela TYSON - July 09, 2020 at 07:05 PM

MD

“ Marsha Dunston lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe



Marsha Dunston - July 09, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe.*



July 09, 2020 at 05:46 PM

LL

“ *MY FRIEND GOD HAS PLUCKED ANOTHER FLOWER I WILL TRUELY MISS YOU GOOD TIMES TOGETHER MY MEMORIES & LOVE WILL FOREVER BE BURIED IN MY HEART REST MY FRIEND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.*

Linda M. Leake - July 09, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe.*



July 09, 2020 at 04:38 PM

GB

“ *Paulette I feel blessed to have had you refer to me as one of "Your Girl's". You were a joy to be around. I admired you so much, and will always cherish the times we shared together. Heaven has another beautiful angel! Love you*



Gewendaline Bizzell - July 09, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe.*



July 09, 2020 at 03:54 PM

IS

“ Paulette was a very helpful person to me when I arrived at DRH to work back in 1983. She was very lively, funny and kept things real all of the time. She was frequently my eyes and ears as she worked diligently. She was "a mess" but didn't take no mess!!She was that "go to person " to get things done. Just a beautiful person inside and out. A very dear friend is now a lost to us all. Ira Q Smith MD

Ira Smith - July 09, 2020 at 01:10 PM

OJ

“ In Memory of Mrs. Paulette Thorpe, Our Prayers and Sympathy to the family Mr. and Mrs. Otis Johnson



otis and velma johnson - July 09, 2020 at 12:48 PM

MB

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the family



Marilyn Brown - July 09, 2020 at 06:42 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe.



July 09, 2020 at 01:33 AM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe.



July 09, 2020 at 12:22 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe.*



July 08, 2020 at 07:59 PM

DC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I will miss her contagious smile and words of encouragement.*



Diane Cox - July 08, 2020 at 07:22 PM

VM

“ *Sending deepest sympathy to Paulette's family. We were classmates in the Hillside High class of 1963. May God give you strength to endure.*
Vera Roberson Mills



Vera Roberson Mills - July 08, 2020 at 06:45 PM

DG

“ *Always a smile and a great laugh. You could have had a long night in Labor and Delivery at the hospital but as soon as you walked into the Nursery you could count on Paulette to make you smile and your day was made. All of us who knew her are saddened . Our world was made better because she graced it. Rest in God's Hand. Heaven will be even better*

Dr. Eugene Granger - July 08, 2020 at 05:59 PM

MF

“ I practiced OB/GYN in Durham regional hospital for almost 40 years . During that time, I met a lot of wonderful people. High on that list was Paulette Thorpe .

Every time I came into the nursery, she always greeted me by saying “uh, oh, here comes trouble “. Boy did she have me pegged . This greeting was always followed by a big warm smile.

From my time in the Air Force, I learned that if you wanted something done, you never asked an officer. Rather, you asked the chief Master Sergeant. Paulette was the chief Master Sergeant of the nursery. She always got the job done.

She will be greatly missed by all those who loved her. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this tragic time.

mike fried - July 08, 2020 at 05:17 PM

ER

“ In Memory WILL MISSYOU , YOUR NEIGHBOR
Mrs Edith Rucker



edith rucker - July 08, 2020 at 05:05 PM

AT

“ Paulette, you filled our lives with love, happiness, laughter and will be truly missed.

In loving memory & and forever in my heart..... Tweedle.

Mr. Angela L. Tyson

Angela TYSON - July 08, 2020 at 03:30 PM

H1

“ The Hillside High School Class of 1963 mourns the passing of our Classmate Paulette. She will truly be missed. We extend our condolences to the Toomer, Thorpe Families. We pray peace and comfort to you.

Blessings,

Gloria Evans Rentrope, Class President

Hillside High School Class of 1963 - July 08, 2020 at 03:25 PM

H1

“ *Hillside High School Class Of 1963 lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



Hillside High School Class of 1963 - July 08, 2020 at 03:23 PM

GR

“ *GLORIA RENTROPE lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



GLORIA RENTROPE - July 08, 2020 at 03:21 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe.*



July 08, 2020 at 02:51 PM

DM

“ *Delores Melvin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



Delores Melvin - July 08, 2020 at 12:37 PM

EH

“ *Ethel Holloway lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



Ethel Holloway - July 08, 2020 at 12:23 PM

MK

“ *I will miss Paulette. She always kept something going. Rest in Heaven Dear Friend*

Marsha G. Kee - July 08, 2020 at 10:51 AM

CB

“ *Carolyn Brooks-Brodie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Paulette Thorpe*



Carolyn Brooks-Brodie - July 08, 2020 at 10:02 AM

KJ

“ *To the Thorpe and Toomer families I wish my deepest sympathies. I'm so very hurt. I've never known life without Paulette. My Mother's Best Friend, she has been in my life since I was born. Paulette was always full of life and love and enjoyed having good times with her friends and family. Paulette was always there for me through the passing of both my Mother & Father. She remained a constant in my life checking in with me just to make sure I was feeling ok and doing good. Paulette was a great person that I'm truly going to miss. I pray for strength for the family. God Bless. Keshia Jones*

Keshia Jones - July 08, 2020 at 12:09 AM

PW

“ *Not enough words I can say about Sweet paulette. In 1979 as a new nurse she accepted me right in with the rest of the gang in the nursery at DRH. Over the years the fun we had while we worked set the tone for the how work could and should be. Everyone helped everyone to get it done as she would say. Well BUTT-Ee, we did get it done. She knew everyone s family and my daddy loved to see her come visit him when he had his stroke and was In rehab. Always thinking of everyone else, she helped so many new nurses feel right at home. I could go on and on but the main thing is I loved her and she loved me. For that I am forever grateful. Find comfort I. Knowing she is at home now with her beloved Rock and her Mom. God bless you all Pam williamson*

pam williamson - July 07, 2020 at 08:37 PM

ST

“ I did not work directly with Paulette in the Nurseries at Durham Regional Hospital but I knew her well. I would go to the nurseries and there she was....sitting in HER chair and keeping everyone in tow. She loved all her co-workers and all the doctors and they loved her back. When Paulette spoke, everyone listened. She had a heart of gold. The Lord is blessed to have this Angel. Rest in Peace Paulette.



Sylvia Taliaferro - July 07, 2020 at 08:35 PM

JC

We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this time. We loved being around with her beautiful smile. May God wrap his loving arms around the family.

The Cross Family (Jackie, Bill, and Yvonneda)

Jackie Cross - July 08, 2020 at 08:23 PM

ET

Sorry for your loss. May beautiful memories of the past bring comfort to you during this difficult time.

Everlene Turrentine

Everlene Turrentine - July 09, 2020 at 08:57 AM

BT

I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful mother, sister and aunt. May God bring comfort to you all during this very difficult time.

Brenda Toomer - July 09, 2020 at 09:17 PM

SC

Sincere sympathy to the entire family;I did not know Ms. Thorpe personally, but I recall her sweet spirit when I delivered my child at DRH in 1982. Always remember that God will take care of you. RIP Shirley Turrentine-Cole

Shirley Cole - July 11, 2020 at 12:26 PM