



Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee

April 30, 1923 - December 17, 2020

The passing of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee, age 97, is being announced by her sister Gizette.

Thelma Delores Jones Lee was born April 30, 1923 in Durham, North Carolina to her parents, Charlie Jones and Flossie Crabtree Jones Webb. She is the third of six children born to Mr. Jones and the third of five children born to Mrs. Webb. Thelma attended Lyon Park Elementary School and Hillside High School. During that time, Hillside held classes from the seventh to eleventh grades and was located in the building that later became Whitted Jr. High School. She graduated around 1939 or 1940. Thelma also attended North Carolina College for two years.

Thelma married Chief Warrant Officer/Sgt. William D. Lee in 1956. They were married for 43 years. Thelma and William aka "sweetie pie" and "honey" respectfully, renewed their wedding vows in 1996 on their 40th Anniversary. They used these terms of endearment in speaking to each other routinely. She lived as a military wife for 20 years. They lived in Japan and Germany for several years and for a short period in England. She and her husband travelled extensively, visiting Canada and Mexico in North America. They also travelled to Central America and to many of the islands in the West Indies. They additionally traveled a lot in the USA. Thelma was widowed in 1999.

Professionally, Thelma worked in clerical positions in Washington, DC and New York City during her early years of employment. She returned to Durham and worked as a DJ for WSRC radio station for several years during the fifties. Thelma was the first black female DJ in Durham. Upon returning to Durham in the seventies, Thelma was employed at Lyon Park Community Center and at General Telephone Co. She retired from General Telephone Co. after 15 years of employment. After retirement, Thelma volunteered at the VA Hospital in Durham for over a decade. Thelma was a member and past president of the Epicureans, the Bridge Club, the National Council of Negro Women, the West End Reunion, and the Silhouettes-Kappa Wives.

Thelma joined First Calvary Baptist Church when it was a part of Second Baptist Church located on Cameron Street which is now Carroll Street. She often spoke of living across the street from the church and of going out of the back door of the family home place to enter the church.

Thelma was the Matriarch of the Jones-Davis-Riley Family. Along with sister Gizette of Durham, Thelma leaves to cherish her memory her nephews, Ronald Britton (Jean) of New Orleans, LA, James Morgan of Washington, DC and Zaid Morgan of Washington, DC; niece, Michelle Williams of Washington, DC; cousins, Lola Brown (Chuck), Charlene Clay (Tyrone), Marsha Hines (Kenny) and Rod Barbee; special friends, Mary Yound, Ronnie Brandon, Vincent Ryan and Emily and Charlie Scott; adopted son, John Harris (Stephanie); Godchildren, Glenda Ochman (Tad) and Raymond McAllister, Jr.; and, many other relatives and friends.

A graveside service of celebration has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at 12:00 noon, at Beechwood Cemetery, 3300 Fayetteville Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Graveside

DEC 23. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Along with Gizette, Thelma is engraved in Hillside class of 1965's fabric with the distinction of West End Class, Grace and Beauty. What a connect I cherish with her presence to our class functions and Reunions. Betsy and Thelma heavenly arms will always protect Baby Sis. Love the Webb family. Jackie Robinson*

Jackie Robinson - December 23, 2020 at 08:47 AM



“ *Joy Shields Norris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee*



Joy Shields Norris - December 22, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ *Thinking of family and friends in Durham and praying for healing and faith. May cousin Thelma Rest In Peace and Power.*



The Allens - December 21, 2020 at 07:31 PM

DS

“ *Thelma will be remembered as a friend, an Epicurean and a Kappa Silhouette. Thelma was a lady always with a smile and warm reserved manner. She enjoyed people and being around friends. The difference in our age was not a factor because Thelma was comfortable with everyone she encountered. I did not know her late husband, William, but he was the love of her life. Because William was a Kappa, Thelma joined the Durham Kappa Silhouettes and remained an active member. Thelma loved being a member of the Durham Chapter of National Epicureans. She was the Founder of the Raleigh Chapter of National Epicureans. Thelma was our sister and our friend. Thelma's light will always shine bright. She may be gone, but not forgotten.*

Daphne and Lynn Smith

Daphne Smith - December 21, 2020 at 09:10 AM

MM

“ *Thelma was a lovely lady, one I met at the College View Bridge Club in Durham. She was extremely gracious and loyal to College View. She was so thankful for even the smallest favor extended to her. We need more "Thelmas" in the world. Rest in peace, Thelma. Play that grand slam carefully!*

Mary E Moragne

MARY ELOIS MORAGNE - December 21, 2020 at 08:09 AM



JF

“ *Judy F.Gill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee*



Judy F.Gill - December 20, 2020 at 01:33 PM

TO

“ *The Raymond McAllisters and Glenda and Tad Ochman purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee.*



The Raymond McAllisters and Glenda and Tad Ochman - December 20, 2020 at 11:56 AM

RP

“ Rita Pompey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee



Rita Pompey - December 20, 2020 at 08:39 AM

RM

“ Raymond McAllister lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee



Raymond McAllister - December 19, 2020 at 09:19 PM

GO

“ Glenda Ochman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee



Glenda Ochman - December 19, 2020 at 06:10 PM

GO

Our heartfelt condolences to Gizette and the family. We will miss my Godmother so much. Aunt Thelma was truly an awesome woman. And I/we will never forget the story of how she introduced Mom and Dad to each other. Our prayers are with you at this time. Love, the McAllisters and Ochman Families

Glenda Ochman - December 19, 2020 at 06:18 PM

MW

“ Marilyn Womble lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Thelma Delores Lee



Marilyn Womble - December 18, 2020 at 04:49 PM

EG

🙏 So happy I spoke with Thelma 2 weeks ago.
Beautiful lady.
Earnestine Goods

Earnestine Goods - December 19, 2020 at 09:20 AM

DH

Thelma Lee introduced me to the ABA. I admired her zeal for the game and her joyous heart. My condolences to her friends and family.

Denise Hoffman

Denise Hoffman - December 19, 2020 at 03:54 PM