



Alpha Thames Banks

February 13, 1931 - July 9, 2020

Alpha Mae Thames Banks was born February 13, 1931 in Norfield, Mississippi to the late Albert Henry Thames, Sr., and the late Johnnie Wright Denwood Thames.

Alpha met Roy Willie Banks, her husband, while in high school and got married during college. They stayed married for 67 years until the Lord called her home July 9, 2020. During their golden years, they shared a room at Wilson Health Care. From their union came two children—Alpha Teresa Banks Blair and Roy Andre Banks.

Alpha was preceded in death by her son Roy Andre' Banks, brother Albert Henry Thames, Jr, sister Jonie Mevelyn Moore, (nephews) Lambert Moore, Daryl Jones, Dedry Jones, Ronald Spates, (nephews) Eric Jackson (Charlene), Kenneth Jackson (Martha) and Godmother Mary T. Ward.

While Alpha was an elementary school student, in a one room schoolhouse during the 1930s, her dream was to one day become a schoolteacher. After graduating from college in 1954, she joined the faculty of Magnolia elementary school in Jackson County Mississippi, later taught 3rd grade at Our Lady of Victories Catholic School, and subsequently retired from teaching after more than 48 years. Alpha was proud to be an educator.

After receiving a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics from Jackson Teachers College in Jackson Mississippi, Alpha enjoyed many creative hobbies, served as a board member for the county fair, taught home economics, was a member of several artesian guilds, and both owned and operated a artesian craft store.

She encouraged and allowed her own children to identify, connect with and develop into who they were created by God to be and what they were put on this earth to do. The lifestyle she modeled was that you are not finished when you complete the task. She challenged her children early in life by asking them "what are you working on that will outlive you"? Her home was filled with many projects that privately involved meeting the needs of other people in the community. Although her daughter was born legally blind, through Alpha's efforts, she was able to overcome and advance beyond what was predicted for her during that time in medical science.

As a neighbor, she shopped with the other mothers, shared recipes, as they watched over each other's children. In her church she was a member of the parish council, sang in the adult choir, directed the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), served as director of the Youth Choir, chaperoned students attending state and national CYO meetings, successfully managed the campaign of a student who achieved state office of leadership, served as president of the Ladies Auxiliary, was a delegate to several National Black Catholic Congress meetings, and was humbly honored to be one of the representatives from the Diocesan to be in the audience during a papal visit.

She valued family, education, service, relationships, creativity, and God.

Alpha leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Roy Willie Banks, Daughter Alpha Teresa Banks Blair, Son-in law Michael Henrique Blair, (brothers) Jacques Thames, Lloyd Julius Thames (Joyce), (Nephews) Michael Moore

(Latrell), Rodney Moore, Jeffrey Moore, Godfather Jerry Washington Ward, and a host of other relatives, friends, neighbors, church members and former students. Friends who became daughters: Iris Wright Simpson, Arlene Johnson, Marie Henderson and Rachel Washington Carpenter. Friends who became a sister: LeGrant Wright, Dorothy Prout.

In lieu of sending flowers, please consider a donation to either imaginationlibrary.com or Creativityshell.org

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

8000 Woodyard Road
Clinton, MD 20735

Previous Events

Service

JUL **15**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Family Catholic Church
2210 Calloway Street
Temple Hills, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Alpha Thames Banks*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alpha Thames Banks.*



July 16, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ *Beautiful photo. She looks like her mother... My Condolences, DESSIE, Jackson, MS*

Dessie Barnes - July 15, 2020 at 01:39 PM



“ *Terry,
My thoughts and prayers are with you on the passing of your mother. There isn't anything comparable to the unconditional love of a mother.*

Remember those occasions during undergrad in Pulley Hall (college dormitory) when we would talk about home and our mothers? Those are fond and unforgettable memories. Please let those of us who love you provide comfort and pleasant memories during this time.

*Sisterly,
Evelyn Hunley*



Evelyn Hunley - July 15, 2020 at 12:15 PM

MH

“ Our deepest condolences to Terri and family. While Mrs. Banks will be sadly missed, she will live forever in our hearts. She was a special friend and one we loved very much.

Marie Henderson - July 15, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Alpha Thames Banks.



July 14, 2020 at 04:42 PM

SA

“ *Suzy, Christopher & Roscoe Adams* purchased the *Serene Retreat* for the family of Alpha Thames Banks.



Suzy, Christopher & Roscoe Adams - July 14, 2020 at 03:33 PM

DS

“ *Dr. Nadim Haddad, Sheila Mathis and Donna Sloper*, purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Alpha Thames Banks.



Dr. Nadim Haddad, Sheila Mathis and Donna Sloper, - July 14, 2020 at 01:06 PM

MD

“ Miss Alpha always loved to be involved with her neighbors in memory care. She especially loved trivia and was great at it. I always loved hearing Miss Alpha talk about teaching the children which she so enjoyed. It was an equal blessing for Alpha to be rejoined with her husband and spend their remaining days together. I would like to add that Having Arlene her caregiver was an added plus. Arlene was very devoted and we appreciated her for the wonderful care given to Miss Alpha. We will truly miss her. Finally - on behalf of our staff, Thankyou for trusting and allowing us to help in her care!

Murvell Delpino - July 14, 2020 at 07:12 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alpha Thames Banks.



July 13, 2020 at 09:13 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Alpha Thames Banks.



July 13, 2020 at 04:12 PM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Christ Loves Me
We Love You*



Thomas Widgeon - July 12, 2020 at 07:26 PM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - July 11, 2020 at 04:42 PM