



## Everett J. Thompson, Jr.

March 1, 1937 - August 20, 2024

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;  
The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121, NIV

Everett Joseph Thompson, Jr., was born March 1, 1937, at his father's birth home in Bennettsville, South Carolina. He was the oldest of three children of the late Everett Joseph Thompson, Sr., and Geneva Davis Thompson. He was a devoted big brother to Cortez and Cheryl, offering constant love and unwavering support. His first years were spent in Sumter, South Carolina, in his maternal grandparents' home where he learned to value love of family, education, commitment, character and responsibility from his parents as he watched them care for their parents. He also began his Christian journey at Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Everett also discovered his gift, "care giver," which is also his legacy.

He began his education journey in Sumter public schools and transferred to boarding school at Browning Home-Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina at age thirteen. He was a phenomenal athlete and played football at Mather and later at his alma mater, Morehouse College. He graduated from high school in 1954 and enrolled at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., and majored in Business. He graduated in 1958 and served two years in the United States Army at Ft. Jackson and in Germany where he learned computer programming, and became a master programmer of Fortran and Cobol.

Following his military service Everett continued to build his legacy in Washington, DC, as a civil servant, a husband and a father. He married Barbara Beavers, a beautiful young lady he met while at Morehouse. As they built their life together, they were blessed with two children Everett (E.J.), III and Karla and Everett wrote a new chapter of his legacy as he became a responsible, compassionate, devoted and loving father.

Everett began a civil service career in the United States Federal Government where he served at the United States Postal Service, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Airforce at the Pentagon, and the Financial Management Service at the Department of Treasury where he retired in 2002 with 43 years of federal service. As a master programmer, he helped lead the adoption of mainframe computers in the federal government that became the foundation for modern technology .

Before his marriage, Everett lived with his uncle Ben and aunt Evelyn Canty who were active members of Campbell African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Active meant attendance and he was led to join Campbell along with two cousins, Edna and Benji on the same Sunday. Everett continued his

spiritual growth at Campbell and held several leadership positions including trustee, scholarship committee chair, and Boy Scouts of America, U.S.A. troupe leader. As a committed leader and trustee, Everett bonded with fellow trustees, Curtis Bennett, James Adams, and Mary Stafford, and this strong team helped elevate Campbell's fiscal and spiritual growth. Everett was razor focused on ensuring everyone had a positive worship experience which led him to initiate projects like installing an elevator for the elderly and those needing assistance and replacing the sound system in the Church. As a nurturer and caregiver, he had a special place in his heart for mission ministries and faithfully worked and served meals during church occasions and to the homeless. Everett experienced significant spiritual growth when Campbell read "The Purpose Driven Life" as a church. That growth prepared him to become the family patriarch.

The "Purpose Driven Life" and "The Shack" were his favorite books and inspired him to live a life that exemplified the lessons in both books. In his role as patriarch, he spoke very little in crowds, however, family gatherings were not complete until he showed up. He gave advice whether you wanted it or not. He rarely gave advice during group discussions but at some point, he'd make his way to say whatever he needed to say in a private, reassuring, and expectant voice. He'd felt the void of sickness and death and modeled seeing life through prisms of hope and courage which ultimately resulted in his natural progression to become the family anchor.

He married Vivan Baytop in 1985 and they enjoyed life together at their home in District Heights, MD until her death in 2010.

Everett enjoyed being with friends. He regularly drove to Curtis Bennett's farm, sat under a tree to hang out with the guys. His favorite part of those visits was bringing back vegetables and share with neighbors and friends.

In a world of isolation, he shared a unique bond with several of his neighbors, Kim, Joyce, Marge, Tim, and Ron. They live as true neighbors who support and look out for each other unafraid to “get involved” if they sense something isn’t quite right.

He was a loving protective big brother. For Cheryl, he was her North Star, rock of faith and well of hope. He had a special relationship with nephews, Trey and Marcus, and supported them with a firm hand, guiding them with love while holding them accountable.

Everett and E.J. regularly shared the difficulties and the joys of parenting and life. They often compared experiences and found “people are people” regardless of age or profession. He was a loving grandfather with a listening ear, always there and ready to help. Karla’s weekly visits were the highlight of his life. He prepared dinners that always included butterbeans and rice and Curtis’ tomatoes during the summer. After dinner, they sat and watched football, or just enjoyed each other. Karla was his light and he was her “ride or die,” whatever life brought.

Thomasina (cousin) perfectly described Everett as a “big force of compassion who stayed committed to family and showed his love for us by being “there” whatever “there” represented on life’s path. Life taught him to become a silent giant even in some of our proverbial “forceful storms.” His essence was evidenced by his forceful laugh, forceful conversations, the force his silence evoked, and the steadfast way he’d just “be there.”

Everett Jr. was preceded in death by his second wife Vivian B. Thompson and brother Cortez L. Thompson. Everett’s final chapter in his life legacy was to teach us that a life committed to God, family, friends, hard work, and service is how we evolve into our better selves. He also how to live the term

"commitment." If he agreed to commit himself, you could set your clock on the time he agreed to be available. Everett was always true to himself and his character. He spent his last weeks encouraging and guiding family and friends as only he could, with expectation.

Everett J. Thompson, Jr. passes his legacy torch to his son, Everett J. Thompson, III (Tracie), his daughter; Karla V. Thompson; three grandchildren, Imani Y. Charles, Ashia N. Thompson, Joseph M. Thompson; his sister, Cheryl T. Coleman, his niece, Angela N. Brown; his nephews, Napoleon "Trey" Coleman and Marcus J. Coleman; and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Lincoln Cemetery

3401 Bladensburg Road  
Brentwood, MD 20722

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Campbell A.M.E. Church  
2562 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC

## Service

AUG 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Campbell A.M.E. Church  
2562 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC

# Tribute Wall



“ Lillian Logan lit a candle in memory of Everett Thompson, Jr.



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Lillian Logan - August 30, 2024 at 01:11 AM



“ Linda Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Everett J. Thompson, Jr..

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Linda Z. - August 28, 2024 at 10:10 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Everett J. Thompson, Jr..



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August 27, 2024 at 03:47 PM



“ Rev. Timothy & Mrs. Cynthia Cokley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Everett J. Thompson, Jr..

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Rev. Timothy & Mrs. Cynthia Cokley - August 27, 2024 at 03:47 PM

DA

“ *In loving memory of Everett J. Thompson Jr., Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. May God give you peace and comfort in your time of sorrow. Northminster Presbyterian Church Family of Columbia, South Carolina.*



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**Dr. Albertina Adams-Garvin** - August 27, 2024 at 02:33 AM



“ *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.*

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**Marshall-March Funeral Homes** - August 23, 2024 at 10:53 AM