

A color portrait of an elderly man with a friendly expression, wearing a grey suit jacket, a purple dress shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is dark and out of focus.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Maceo S. Thomas, Jr.

JANUARY 10, 1928 ~~OR~~ MAY 1, 2018

VIEWING
FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018
7:00 - 9:00 PM

PLATT MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2001 HADDONFIELD BERLIN RD.
CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY

MASS
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018
9:45 AM

ST. RAYMONDS CHURCH
1759 CASTLE HILL AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK

Celebration of Life

*M*aceo A. Thomas, Jr age 90, was born on January 10, 1928, in Harlem, NY. He was the eldest son and the third of nine children born to Maceo and Ruth (Hall) Thomas. Maceo grew up in the Bronx, attended PS 78 and graduated from Evander Child High School in 1946. He then attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania for two years before transferring to City College of NY (CCNY), where he majored in business. During his high school and college days, Maceo ran track and ran in the Penn Relays. While at CCNY, he met Marjorie Adams on a blind date; they married in the Bronx on December 23, 1950. They then had two daughters, May and Katherine.

In 1950 he was drafted into the Army and served in Germany. Upon his return, he worked in various capacities for the NY Central Railroad (NYCRR). During this time, he enrolled in the NY School of Embalming and Restorative Arts and graduated in 1956. Maceo continued working at the NYCRR until he retired in 1970. Simultaneously, he served his Funeral Apprenticeship and worked as a licensed NY Funeral Director. He started and owned two funeral businesses, first establishing Rollerson and Thomas Funeral Home in Harlem in 1961, then founded the Highbridge Funeral Home in the Bronx in 1974; eventually, he consolidated the businesses into Highbridge. Maceo retired from the Funeral Business in 1995 and sold the business and property.

During the many years Maceo and Marjorie lived in the Bronx, he was exceedingly active in both professional and religious organizations. Maceo was a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association, and served as president of the Empire State Funeral Directors Association and the Greater New York Funeral Directors Association.

Celebration of Life

Maceo contributed in many ways to Harlem and its Catholic community. He served as Commissioner of Black Ministry of the Archdiocese of New York, a board member of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) with a special interest in the Harlem Centers, and as a charter member of the Martin Luther King, Jr, chapter 6135 of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a life member of the NAACP and a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha, a Black honorary fraternity.

Maceo had the honor and privilege of being selected by the NY Archdiocese to be the Funeral Director to exhume Pierre Toussaint's remains and entomb them in St Patrick's Cathedral. He was later awarded the Pierre Toussaint Medal by the Office of Black Ministry of the Archdiocese, and in 1990 he was presented with the Cardinal Cooke award by Cardinal O'Connor of New York for his lifelong services to the NY Archdiocese and the CYO. On May 8, 2005 he was presented the Emerson J. Moore Award in recognition of dedication and services to the NY Kennedy Center and the Harlem Community.

Maceo was an avid philatelist, collected worldwide stamps on many different subjects and was active in the MSC stamp club in South Jersey. He also had several other collecting interests including horse figurines. Maceo loved horses and rode horses from when he was young until well into his later years. Maceo enjoyed travel and he and Marjorie traveled extensively.

Maceo is survived by Marjorie his wife of 67 years; two daughters, May A. Thomas, MD and Katherine Thomas, DDS and her husband Walter Streets; four grandchildren, Craig S. Carter, II, Lori A. Carter, Akeita M. Streets and Kayla A. Streets; four siblings, Muriel Hanson, Ruth McCalla, Elizabeth (Betty) Pickett, and Vincent Paul Thomas; and many other family and friends.

Thank you for sharing in Maceo's celebration of life.

Marjorie, May, and Katherine

Crossing the Bar

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*

Interment

*St. Raymonds Cemetery
2600 Lafayette Ave, Bronx, NY*

Repast

*Alvin and Friends Restaurant
14 Memorial Hwy, New Rochelle, NY*



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