

Celebration of Life for
Theodore Jay Lee, Jr.
"Teddy"
"Mortician Magician"

Sunrise
September 1, 1937

Sunset
May 4, 2022



Service

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 • 12:00 noon

Bethel Baptist Church

1 Fisher Court • White Plains, New York 10601



Legacy Of A Life Well Lived

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under Heaven... ~ Ecclesiastes 3 ~

A TIME TO BE BORN

Theodore Jay Lee, Jr. was born on September 1, 1937 at St. Agnes Hospital, White Plains, NY, to the late Theodore Jay Lee, Sr. and Mattie R. Anderson Lee.

A TIME TO GROW

Ted grew up in a "family village" type of environment, where he knew almost everyone in the neighborhood. He played on the streets and sandlots, and had a Reporter Dispatch newspaper route. Ted was formally educated in the White Plains School System, graduating WPHS in 1955. Spiritually he was raised and grew up in Bethel Baptist Church. He attended New York University, and served 4 years in the US Army, where he was stationed in Panama, before his honorable discharge. In 1962 he attended and graduated with honors/ Cum Laude, from American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service in NYC. He has been an active licensed Funeral Director for 60 years.

A TIME TO LOVE

Theodore J. Lee, Jr. was united in Holy Matrimony to JoAnne Futrell of Peekskill, NY on September 12, 1964. They were blessed with two children to raise, with their values, and to survive him - Jennifer and Theodore Jay Lee, III. He was a kind, loving, father, and husband for just short of 58 years. A close knit, loving family, they lived and worked together daily the majority of their lives. They enjoyed this time together, as well as yearly family vacations, even if 'vacation' was the conventions for The Exchange Club & the funeral directors (NFDMA). He would take the whole family (including his mother-in-law), to Funeral Director Conventions around the USA.

A TIME TO WORK

Teddy was born into and always worked in the family business to some extent since childhood. After his formal schooling & licensure, he formally joined the family business, Lee's Funeral Home, LLC, as the Second Generation, and became manager after his father died. He remained active in funeral service, actively serving his community, ever continuing educating himself in his craft, and always available & amenable to share his knowledge & wisdom with others. He has received many awards during his 75 years, and is happy to have served as a now past president of several organizations, including the Greater NY Funeral Directors Association; Empire State FDA; and First District Governor of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association from whom he won their highest award the Robert H. Miller Professional of the Year Award, as well as was the 2011 Funeral Director of the Year from the Empire FDA. He's also a long time member of the NYSFDA, the MetFDA (& a former member of its board of directors), Westchester County FDA, and the Eta Chapter of the Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity. He served 9 years on the NY State Funeral Directing Advisory Bd., as well as a trustee of the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service, in NYC, & earned his CFSP status (Certified Funeral Service Professional) from the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice. In 2002 Teddy semi retired, and lovingly & readily turned over his managerial duties to his Summa Cum Laude graduate & proven most capable, licensed funeral director daughter Jennifer, the Third Generation, who helped bring Lee's Funeral Home into it's 107th year. Ted was also very active in the White Plains Community, ways in which & organizations of which are too numerous to list here, but include: Exchange Club; Fisher Hill Association; WP Juneteenth Heritage Committee; Westchester County African American Heritage Celebration Committee; White Plains Historical Society; Thomas H. Slater Center Board; Charter Member of Roots of White Plains Foundation, and contributing writer to the book "On The Streets Where We Lived"; & named Grand Marshall for the Juneteenth Parade this year (along with wife JoAnne); etc. He was sought for advice by people from all walks of life, and was always willing to assist or give advice.

A TIME TO PLAY

As is well known, Ted loved & was a well known & loved Magician. After taking a City adult education class where the interest & lifelong learning started, as his wife would say "he's been doing magic for our children, at birthday parties, etc. since they were kids - they grew out of it, he didn't. But that was OK, because he found a lot of other 'big kids' in his many fellow Magicians he grew to know & love over the years, being member of so many organizations, including: Society of American Magicians Parent Assembly #1, NYC; Society of American Magicians Assembly #194 Yonkers, NY; International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring #26, NYC; International Association of Black Magical Artists; and the Invisible Ring. He's been past president and/or officer of some, including Past President of the same one Houdini was president of, as well as most recently made Dean of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Harry Roz-n Ring #26, NYC.

A TIME TO WORSHIP

Ted is a longtime member of & had always been a tither at Bethel Baptist Church, where he's served as Trustee and worked with the Men's Ministry, etc. Ted was staunch a believer in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ above all. Though one of his hobbies was magic, he enlightened many people about God through the Gospel Magic he would do.

A TIME TO DIE

On Wednesday, May 4, 2022 Ted transitioned from labor to reward, peacefully while sleeping.

A TIME TO MOURN

Left to survive and cherish his memory are his wife, JoAnne, daughter Jennifer, son, TJ, many cousins, other relatives, staff family, and friends.

Order of Service

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Officiant

Opening..... “Oh I Want To See Him” - Bro. Stanley Moore, Organist

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23..... Dea. Frank Williams

New Testament - Matthew 5:14-16 Dea. Dewitt Smith

Prayer Of ComfortRev. Jerome Robinson

Associate Minister, Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York

Acknowledgements..... Sis. Barbara Andralliski

Obituary Read in Silence (“Precious Memories” softly plays)

Tributes Civic Leaders – Mayor Thomas M. Roach, Jr.

Morticians – Pres. Hari P. Close

Magicians – Bro. Frank Reyes

Clergy - Rev. Dr. Gregory R. Smith

Community – Sis. Heather Miller

Family – Daughter Jennifer A. Lee

Solo “I Won’t Complain” - Sis. Janice Lester • Calvary Baptist Church, White Plains, NY

Eulogy Dr. Edward O. Williamson • Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, White Plains, NY

Recessional “Going Up Yonder” - Rev. Patricia Dale Gillman • Mt. Hope A.M.E. Zion Church, White Plains, NY

Interment

White Plains Rural Cemetery
White Plains, New York

Contributions may be made:

In his name/memory/honor to the Thomas H. Slater Center, Hospice of Westchester, and/or any local church and/or charitable organization of your choice, especially ones with which Mr. Lee was affiliated/supported.

More info at: www.LeesFuneralHome.com

When Through One Man

When through one man

A little more love,

A little more goodness,

A little more hope,

A little more beauty,

A little more joy,

And a little more faith

Have come into the world,

Then that man's life has had meaning.



Acknowledgements

When loved ones go before us we feel that we are alone. You've made us know that this is not true, from the many kindnesses you've shown. Please accept our sincere thanks, it is the greatest word we know. May God's richest blessings follow you, wherever you may go.

The Lee Family



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