

*In Loving
Memory of*

Milton R. Thornton



*Sunrise
December 31, 1929*

*Sunset
April 16, 2013*

*Saturday, April 20, 2013
1:00 P.M.*

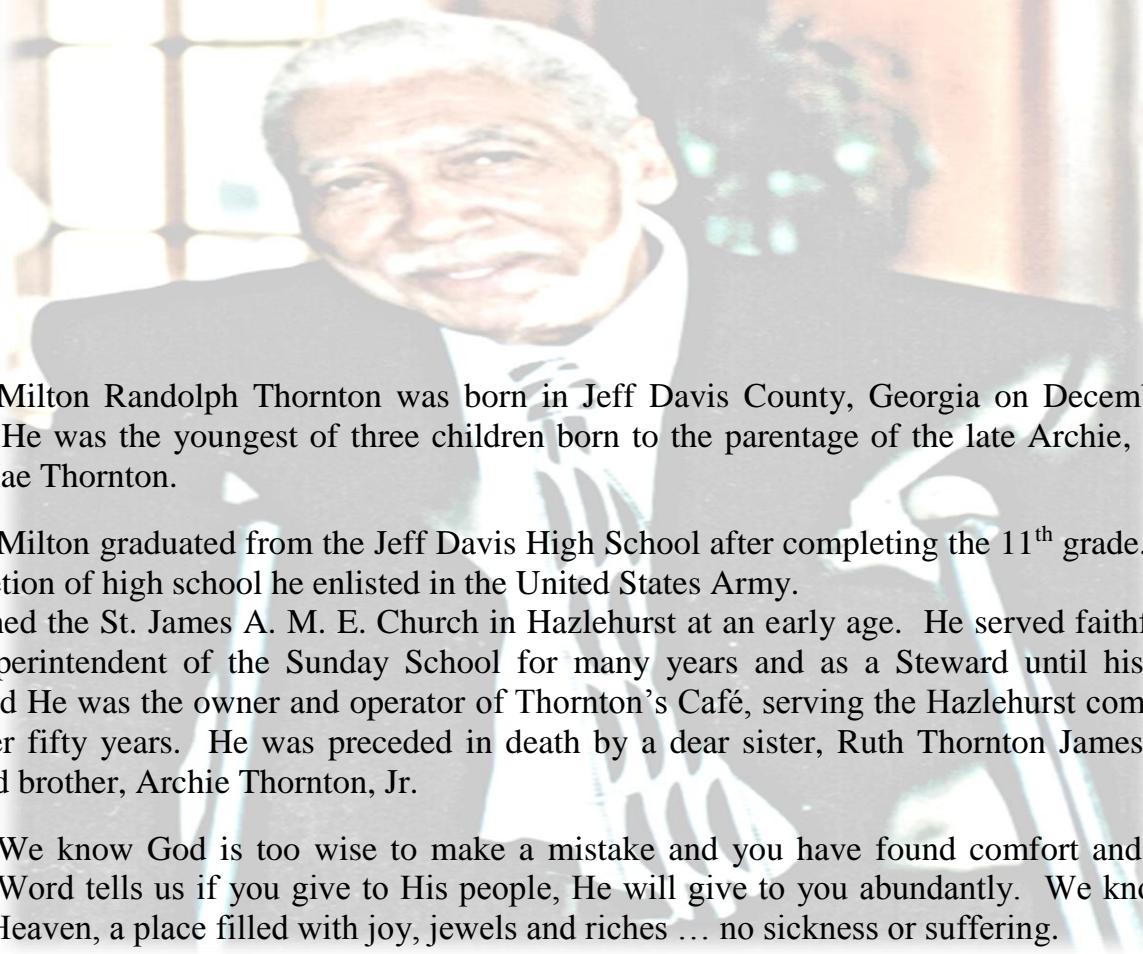
*Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
Reverend Reginald Cordy, Pastor
27 Girtman Street
Hazlehurst, Georgia 31539*

*Reverend Catherine Mathis, Presiding
Reverend Betty Thomas, Eulogist*

Reflections of Life

*God saw our loved one getting weary, so he did what He thought best.
He came and stood beside him and whispered, "Come and rest."*

There are three steps to Heaven – out of self, into Christ and into Glory. Milton took the first two steps in life and lived a beautiful life in Christ. A kind word, a helping hand, and a mind that led toward any who needed help – that was the life Milton lived.



Milton Randolph Thornton was born in Jeff Davis County, Georgia on December 31, 1929. He was the youngest of three children born to the parentage of the late Archie, Sr. and Will Mae Thornton.

Milton graduated from the Jeff Davis High School after completing the 11th grade. Upon completion of high school he enlisted in the United States Army.

He joined the St. James A. M. E. Church in Hazlehurst at an early age. He served faithfully as the Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years and as a Steward until his health declined. He was the owner and operator of Thornton's Café, serving the Hazlehurst community for over fifty years. He was preceded in death by a dear sister, Ruth Thornton James, and a devoted brother, Archie Thornton, Jr.

We know God is too wise to make a mistake and you have found comfort and peace. God's Word tells us if you give to His people, He will give to you abundantly. We know you are in Heaven, a place filled with joy, jewels and riches ... no sickness or suffering.

Loving memories of Milton will be cherished by:

A Loving, Devoted Wife of 55 years: Edna Thornton

One Son: Eric K. Thornton (Monea) of Sugarhill, GA

Two Daughters: Sonja R. Hall (Harry) of Larton, VA and Sharon J. Lias (Joseph) of Sanford, FL

Ten Grandchildren: Eric M. Hall (Makeda); Talia S. Thornton; Brittany C. Thornton; Leslie M. Thornton; Cedric J. Hall, Joseph L. Lias III, Jaylan M. Lias, Sydney Renee Lias, Roosevelt J. Martin and Emani Thornton

Three Great-Grandchildren: Mariah, Meliah and London.

One Nephew: Alonza James

Two Nieces: Geraldine Cue and Gail Williams (Robert)

Sisters-in-law: Ernestine Balkcom, Olivia Gadson, Amy Kornegay, Mary Cook, Mattie Travis, Janet Johnson and Valoria Bennett

Brothers-in-law: Charlie Bennett (Dale), Reuben Bennett, Sr., Jim Bennett and Ray Bennett

Special Cousins: Dorothy Harleston, Donald Scott and Lillian Scarbour

Precious memories of Milton will also be cherished by a host of other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Reverend Catherine Mathis, Presiding

Musical Prelude.....	Combined Choir
Processional	Ministers and Family
Prayer of Comfort	Pastor Reuben Bennett, Jr.
Solo	Bob McIver
Scripture Readings:	
Old Testament.....	Reverend Henry Josey
New Testament	Reverend C. D. Johnson
Solo	Reginald Kornegay
Reflections of Love.....	*Please limit to 2 minutes*
As a Church Member.....	Brother Glenn Harris
As a Friend	Minister James Hill
Others	
Solo	Kimothy Kates
Special Tributes.....	led by Eric Hall & Talia Thornton (Grandchildren)
Solo	Mattie Parker
Resolution & Acknowledgements	Elizabeth Brown
Selection	The Benjamin Family
Words of Comfort	Reverend Betty Thomas
Recessional & Final Glance.....	Family and Friends

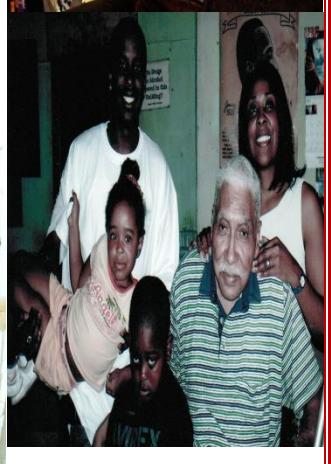
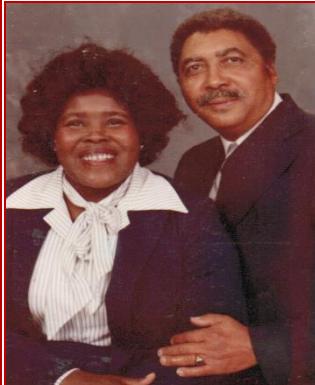
To My Husband, Our Dad and Granddad As We Look Back

As we look back over time we find ourselves wondering...
Did we remember to thank you enough for all you have done for us?
For all the times you were by our sides to help and support us...

To celebrate our successes, to understand our problems,
And accept our defeats? Or for teaching us by your example,
The value of hard work, good judgment, courage and integrity?
We wonder if we ever thanked you for the sacrifices you made.

To let us have the very best?

And for the simple things like laughter, smiles and times we shared?
If we have forgotten to show our gratitude enough
for all the things you did, we're thanking you now.
And we are hoping you knew all along, how much you meant to us.



Dad, as we remember you let us also remember God's words in I Corinthians 13:1-2, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

We Love You,
We Miss You,
Renee, Eric and Sharon



You've sacrificed more than you had to, loved harder than you need to, and meant more to us than we could even pray for. You were our example, our friend, and our protector. The word "great" to some is just a title, but to us it was a way of life. May Heaven embrace you and may the angels welcome you. Goodbye Granddaddy, "missed" only begins to describe the way we feel.

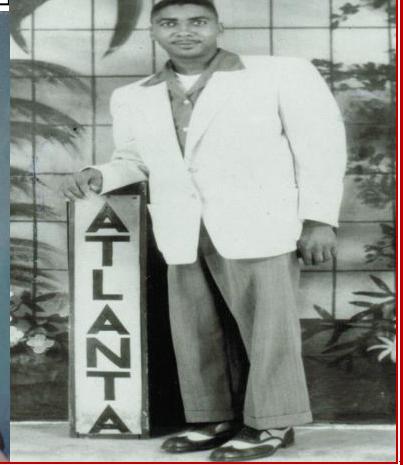
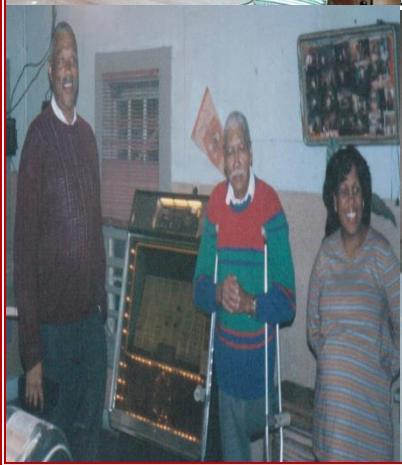
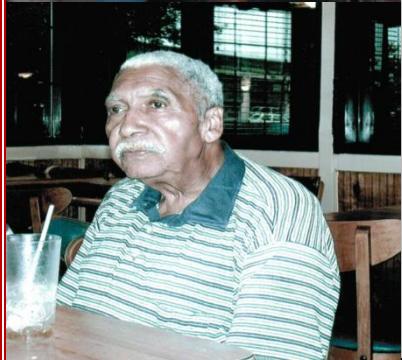
We Love You,
Grandchildren





To Those I Love

When I am gone, release me, let me go,
 I have so many things to see and do,
 You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
 Be happy that we had so many years,
 I have gave you my love, you can only guess,
 How much you gave to me in happiness,
 I thank you for the love you have shown,
 But now it's time I travel alone,
 So grieve a while if grieve you must,
 Then let your grief be comforted by trust,
 It's only a while that we must part,
 So bless the memories with you heart,
 I won't be far away, for life goes on,
 So if you need me, call and I will come,
 Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
 And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
 All of my love around you soft and clear,
 And then, when you must come this way,
 Alone, I'll greet you with a smile,
 And welcome you home.



Active Pallbearers

Nephews and Grandsons

Honorary Pallbearers

Deacons and Stewards of Various Churches

Flower Attendants

Nieces and Granddaughters

Acknowledgement

When death occurs, family and friends gather to celebrate a life that was lived and to share the sorrow that is present. Often times, it is difficult to one's emotions to accept the loss of a fellow human. The intellect understands what has happened. But the emotion adjustment is difficult.

The Thornton Family is deeply grateful:

For the golden words of consolation from the ministers;

For your participation and attendance at this worship service celebrating the life of our loved one;

For those wonderful people who used their skills to prepare nourishments to refresh our weary bodies;

For countless gifts of flowers and messages of sympathy;

And for intangible things, unutterable in speech or language.

We have been enriched by your friendship and strengthened by your love. We appreciate each sympathy gesture that has served as a source of comfort. May the peace of the Lord always be with you.

The Thornton Family

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the following people who assisted in the care of our loved one during his extended illness: Gerald Briggs, Patricia Farrington, Dr. Matthew Mathai and brothers-in-law.

Interment

Hazlehurst Memorial Cemetery

Hazlehurst, Georgia

Repast

Charlie S. Bennett Building

315 Hallspur Road

Hazlehurst, Georgia

Mortuary Services Entrusted To

Thornton's Funeral Home

26 North Miller Street

Hazlehurst, GA 31539

912.375.2654

Serving Since 1925

"Let the service we render speak for us"

James B. Melton, Mortician

Programs by: Kristy Ryals-Bennett