

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MR. RICHARD A. THOMAS ACKNOWLEDGES WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE, ALL THE ACT OF SYMPATHY AND LOVE BESTOWED UPON US DURING THIS TIME OF LOSS. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR PRYAER, MESSGES, AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, AND OTHER THOUGHTFUL WAYS IN WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED YOUR CARE AND CONCERN. MAY GOD BLESS YOU NOW AND FOREVER  
~ THE FAMILY

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## PALLBEARERS

ANTHONY THOMAS ~ CORY KING ~ ERNEST CUMMINGS ~ TREMAINE TRENT ~  
PEPE GWYNN ~ ANTHONY RHYNEHARDT

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

LAFAYETTE R. WESTBROOK III ~ JAYTON WESTBOOK ~ GABRIEL WESTBOOK

## FLOWER BEARERS

PEARLEEN THOMAS ~ SARAI WESTBROOK ~ SONJA RHYNEHARDT ~  
DOMINIQUE TRENT ~ LISA BROWN ~ LASHINA COLEY ~ LEILANI RHYNEHARDT

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## INTERMENT

TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH  
DAYTON NATIONAL CEMETARY  
4400 W. THIRD STREET, DAYTON, OHIO

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SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO  
MARLAN GARY CHAPEL OF PEACE  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



## MR. RICHARD A. THOMAS

SUNRISE ~ MAY 31, 1952

SUNSET ~ MAY 31, 2023

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

VISITATION 1:00 PM | SERVICE 2:00 PM

PASTOR DR. VERLIN F. SAMPLES JR  
OFFICIATING

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
2180 WOODWARD AVENUE | COLUMBUS, OHIO

# OBITUARY

MR. RICHARD A. THOMAS, 71, WAS BORN ON MAY 31, 1952, AND ENTERED ETERNAL PEACE ON MAY 31, 2023. HE WAS BORN IN TAMPA, FLORIDA, THE SECOND CHILD OF THE LATE HENRY J. AND JOSEPHINE THOMAS, AND STOOD PROUD OF HIS MOTHER'S HONDURAS HERITAGE. RICHARD SHARED HIS BIRTHDAY WITH BIG SISTER PAMELA AND SHARED A SPECIAL BOND.

RICHARD WAS A 1972 COLUMBUS MARION FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, WHERE HE PLAYED FOOTBALL AND RAN THE HURDLES IN TRACK. HE PROUDLY SERVED HIS COUNTRY IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY ON BOARD THE USS RICHMOND K. TURNER AND TRAVELED THE WORLD AND SHARED MANY STORIES OF HIS JOURNEYS; HE STUDIED ENGINEERING AT COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE; WAS A MEMBER OF THE ST. JOHN AME CHURCH UNDER PASTOR JERMAINE D. COVINGTON WHERE HE SANG IN THE MEN'S CHOIR. FROM 1972 – 2018 RICHARD WAS A BOILER OPERATOR, A TRADE HE LEARNED IN THE NAVY, WHERE HE OPERATED AND REPAIRED BOILERS UNTIL HE RETIRED FROM THE BATTEL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE. WHAT MANY DO NOT KNOW, WORKING AT NIGHT ALSO GAVE HIM TIME TO READ AND WRITE; HE SAID, "THE SHIP WHO SANG" AND "THE STAINLESS-STEEL RAT" INSPIRED HIM TO COME UP WITH HIS OWN STORY AND THE TITLE CHARACTER RAYMOND HARDUWA WAS BORN. RICHARD AUTHORED AND SELF-PUBLISHED FOUR NOVELS: HARD BODY OF MARCUS, HARD BODY 2, BREACH QUARANTINE, AND HARD BODY ON THE RUN 4; AVAILABLE ON AMAZON, AND HE WAS MID-WAY THROUGH HIS FIFTH NOVEL.

RICHARD WAS A MAN OF FAITH, KIND AND THOUGHTFUL, WHO LOVED TO SHARE STORIES, JOKES AND BRING LAUGHTER TO OTHERS. HE WAS A LOVING AND DEVOTED HUSBAND TO THE LATE EVANGELIST BRENDA JOYCE THOMAS; HE WAS A FATHER, GRANDFATHER OF FOUR, AND INDEED THE HEART OF HIS FAMILY, AND TO ANGEL AND JELLY. HE NEVER MET A STRANGER; EVERY PERSON WAS A FRIEND TO SHARE A SMILE AND LAUGH.

RICHARD IS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS PARENTS, THE LATE HENRY J. AND JOSEPHINE THOMAS, SISTER DEBORAH WALTON, AND THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE, BRENDA J. THOMAS. LEFT TO CHERISH HIS MEMORY IS LOVING DAUGHTER PEARLEEN THOMAS, SON'S ANTHONY THOMAS, ERNEST, AND IVAN CUMMINGS; GRANDCHILDREN LAFAYETTE R. WESTBROOK III, JAYON WESTBROOK, SARAI WESTBROOK, AND GABRIEL WESTBROOK; CHERISHED SISTER PAMELA TRENT; NIECES SONJA (ANTHONY) RHYNEHARDT (GA), DOMINIQUE TRENT, ALICIA THIGPEN, NEPHEWS CORY KING, GREGGORY (DENISE) TRENT, TREMAIN TRENT, PEPE GWYNN, DERRICK NIMMONS, RICH HILL, GREAT-NIECES LEILANI RHYNEHARDT (GA), LASHINA (EDDIE) COLEY (GA), LISA BROWN (GA), GREAT-NEPHEWS ELIJAH AND CARTER EASTER (GA), SISTER-IN-LAW LEILANI BROWN-GWYNN, CAROL MOORE, BROTHER-IN-LAW MICHAEL FAIR, COUSIN SHERI MOORE (VA), SERGEANT MAJOR ADAM MOORE (VA), JEFF THOMAS, PAMELA SLAYTON THOMAS, BRUCE WALKER, DENISE WOOD, THOMAS FAMILY, TRENT FAMILY, BAILEY FAMILY, COVINGTON FAMILY, FIELDS FAMILY, RHYNEHARDT FAMILY, SAUNDERS FAMILY, SEWARD FAMILY, THE SAINTS OF ST. JOHN AME CHURCH, AND A HOST OF MANY OTHER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE - SOFT MUSIC  
PROCESSIONAL - SOFT MUSIC  
PRAYER - PASTOR DR. VERLIN E. SAMPLES JR.  
SCRIPTURE READING  
OLD TESTAMENT - PSALM 23  
NEW TESTAMENT - JOHN 14:1-6  
MUSICAL SELECTION - MRS. REGINA WESTBROOK  
"HIS EYES IS ON THE SPARROW"  
FAMILY TRIBUTE  
OBITUARY - SILENT READING  
REMARKS OF REMEMBRANCE - FAMILY & FRIENDS  
EULOGY/WORDS OF COMFORT - REV. JERMAINE D. COVINGTON  
RECESSIONAL - SOFT MUSIC

## REMEMBER ME

I'D LIKE THE MEMORY OF ME TO BE A HAPPY ONE.  
I'D LIKE TO LEAVE AN AFTERGLOW OF SMILES WHEN LIFE IS DONE.  
I'D LIKE TO LEAVE AN ECHO WHISPHERING SOFTLY DOWN THE WAYS,  
OF HAPPY TIMES AND LAUGHING TIMES AND BRIGHT AND SUNNY DAYS.  
I'D LIKE THE TEAR OF THOSE WHO GRIEVE, TO DRY BEFORE THE SUN,  
OF HAPPY MEMEORIES THAT I LEAVE WHEN LIFE IS DONE

