



*Pallbearers*

Dr. Kevin Carter  
Reginald Gaddis  
Derek Jackson  
Wayland Marzett

Reginald Marzett  
John Smith  
Jalil Williams Thurman  
Detrone Williams

*Flower Bearers*

Granddaughters and Nieces

*Acknowledgments*

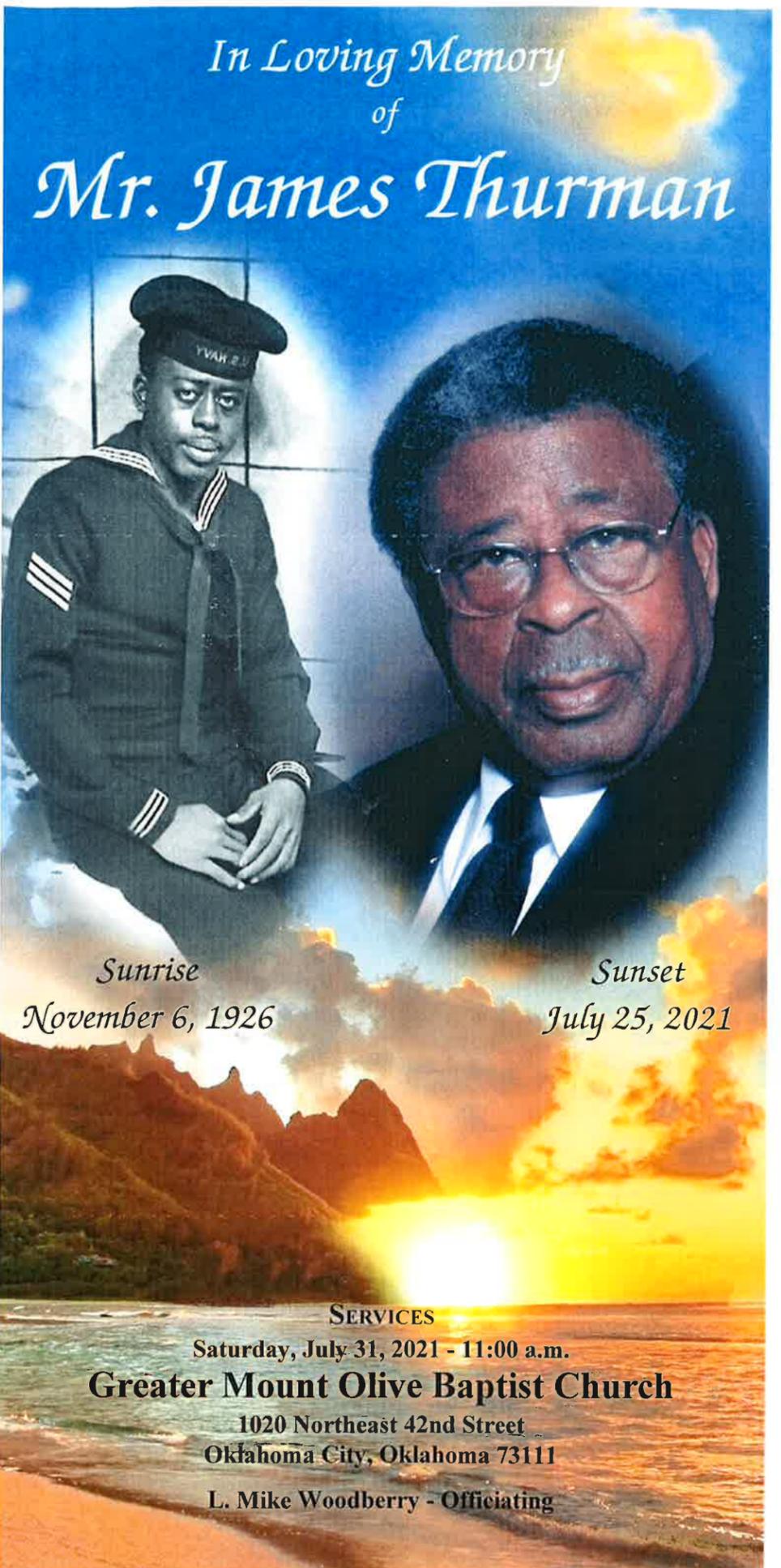
The family of James Thurman wishes to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation for your prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, texts, food, and all expressions of love. Your presence here today provides a source of strength that allows us to carry on. We cherish each of you and you will always hold a special place in our hearts.

We want to extend a special thank you to Val Maiden, Dad's faithful, loving, and gentle care provider. You were always there when we needed you. Reggie Gaddis, there are no words to express how you have blessed our lives before and throughout this journey. We love you dearly. Reggie and Wayland Marzett, you have always been our little brothers and always will be. Thanks for the calls on all the special days. It made Dad smile and he would do a happy dance. Uncle Marlin, we appreciate your weekly calls and encouragement. You have been amazing! Everyone should have an uncle like you. Jill, you are a cousin with a "Heart of Divinity." You have been with us through all the ups and downs even while taking care of Aunt Maybelle; thank you. Stacy Dawson and Felice Dawson Hamilton, our loving cousins, we thank you for always being ready to fill in anytime when needed.

To all are aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends you have been our wonderful support system; thank you. To our "ABCD Neighbors," you have gone *Above and Beyond the Call of Duty*. You have been supportive and encouraging; Bill and Joyce Chaffee, Pat, Eric and Will Czerwinski, we have been tremendously blessed by living next door to you. Last but not least, a special thanks to Dr. Jerome Mathis and his nurse, Tracy Love, who, for 35 years provided outstanding medical care for Dad.

SERVICES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
**TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.**  
2801 North Kelley Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111  
Phone: 405-427-8321

"We Care"  
*II Timothy 4:8*



*In Loving Memory*  
of  
**Mr. James Thurman**



*Sunrise*  
November 6, 1926

*Sunset*  
July 25, 2021

SERVICES  
Saturday, July 31, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.  
**Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church**  
1020 Northeast 42nd Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111  
L. Mike Woodberry - Officiating

## James Thurman

James Thurman, faithful servant of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, triumphantly went to be with Him in heaven. He is now reunited with his wife, Maxine.

James was born on November 6, 1926, to Ella M. Turner Thurman and Sammie Thurman. He is the second of eleven siblings. At a very young age his family moved from Arkansas to Sasakwa, Oklahoma and he was raised in the “Little River” community. He attended the Thomas Chapel Grade School and Wewoka High School.

He served in the United States Navy during World War II as a Seaman First Class and was awarded an honorable discharge. After unsuccessful attempts to secure viable employment, he re-enlisted for a second tour of duty. After a second honorable discharge and receiving the World War II Victory Medal, he returned to Oklahoma City.

He was married to Willie Maxine Watts Thurman for over sixty years and they raised five children. James was a provider for his family and when necessary, he worked two jobs to make sure his children had what they needed.

James worked at several jobs before being hired at Tinker Air Force Base. After 35 years of committed service at Tinker, he retired as a procurement supervisor.

He has been a member of the Unity Baptist Church of Oklahoma City for over 45 years. He was ordained as a deacon on June 27, 1973. He served faithfully until his health no longer permitted. He served as president of the Brotherhood, Chairperson of the Trustees, and was a member of the Male Chorus.

He was very active at the district and state levels of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention. He served four years as the president of the East Zion District Laymen. He worked with dedication for decades on planning committees to promote the growth of the East Zion District. On the state level, James worked as Secretary/Treasurer of the Brotherhood for over 17 years and served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Camp Burge Youth and Adolescent Development Foundation, Inc. He has been recognized with dozens of certificates and beautiful plaques for his active involvement in his home church and the district. He and his late wife, Maxine, traveled extensively to National Baptist Conventions throughout the United States.

His leisure time was spent fishing, hunting, and playing dominoes adding a “Little River” touch to his game. He has always loved watching any type of sports on T.V., especially the Oklahoma City Thunder Basketball Team. He had the opportunity to view a game from a VIP Suite, compliments of the Honorable Ronald “Skip” Kelly. He shared the suite with the Oklahoma City Mayor and other distinguished community leaders. If he wanted to attend a Thunder game,

Clay Bennett, the owner said to Mom, “just give me a call Maxine and I will get James premium tickets.” He also enjoyed being an Oklahoma County Election Day Official at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church for many years.

Maxine and his son, Anthony preceded him in death along with eight of his siblings.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories and continue his legacy his children; Quincy Thurman and wife Tonya, Calvin C. Thurman, Vanessa D. Thurman and husband, James Moore, all of Oklahoma City and Debra Thurman Smith and husband John Smith of Fayetteville, GA; his treasured grandchildren, Latricia and husband, Michael Chamberlin, Nakita Thurman, Sharita, Thurman, Jalil Williams Thurman, all of Oklahoma City, Nicole Monson of Palin New Jersey, Chloe Smith, of St. Augustine, FL. and Dr. Kevin Carter of Torrance, CA; his amazing great-grandchildren, Detrone Williams, O’ mari Williams, Naijah Thurman, Zyria Seals, and Zynia Seals. He was richly blessed this past year with one adorable great-great grandson, Quarte’ Robinson, Jr. He also leaves his devoted siblings, Marlin Thomas of Issaquah, WA and Maybelle Fisher of Oklahoma City, OK along with an abundance of loving friends, cousins, nephews, nieces, in-laws, and his church family.

Dad, Granddaddy, uncle, brother, cousin, and friend you will be dearly missed, but we praise God for the glorious eternal life you are now experiencing.

His daughters, Vanessa and Debra had the honor and great joy to spend the last four years caring for him in his home. Even as dementia was slowly progressing he always recognized his daughters and knew he was loved and safe. He was 94 years old when he unexpectedly departed this earthly life on Sunday, July 25, 2021.

*Revelation 21:4 (KJV) “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.”*

### DEAR GRANDDADDY,

You were a special kind of person full of love, laughter, and joy. The precious time we spent together, we really did enjoy. For all the things you did for us, you forever showed you cared. We knew whenever we needed you, you would always be right there. We just want to say thank you for everything you did. Now you can rest easy in the arms our loving God.

### WE WILL MISS YOU DEARLY.

Love Your Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and  
your precious Great-Great Grandson

## Order of Service

Musical Prelude ..... Rev. Herman Richmond

Processional ..... Clergy, Funeral Directors, Family

Procedural Directions ..... Pastor L. Mike Woodberry  
Unity Baptist Church  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

### Scriptures

Old Testament ..... Psalm 73: 21-26  
Rev. James Ridley  
Unity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

New Testament ..... Revelation 21: 1-7  
Rev. Tyron Barnes  
Unity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Prayer ..... Rev. James Grayson, Israel Chapel CME, Spencer, OK

Musical Selection ..... Rev. Herman Richmond

Resolutions and Acknowledgments ..... Felice Dawson Hamilton, Niece

Remarks (Please limit to two minutes) .... Leslie Kendrick, Past President  
East Zion Consolidated District Association Laymen  
Senator Anastasia A. Pittman, Niece  
Debra Thurman Smith, Daughter

Musical Selection ..... Rev. Herman Richmond

Words of Comfort ..... Pastor L. Mike Woodberry

Life Reflection Video

Recessional