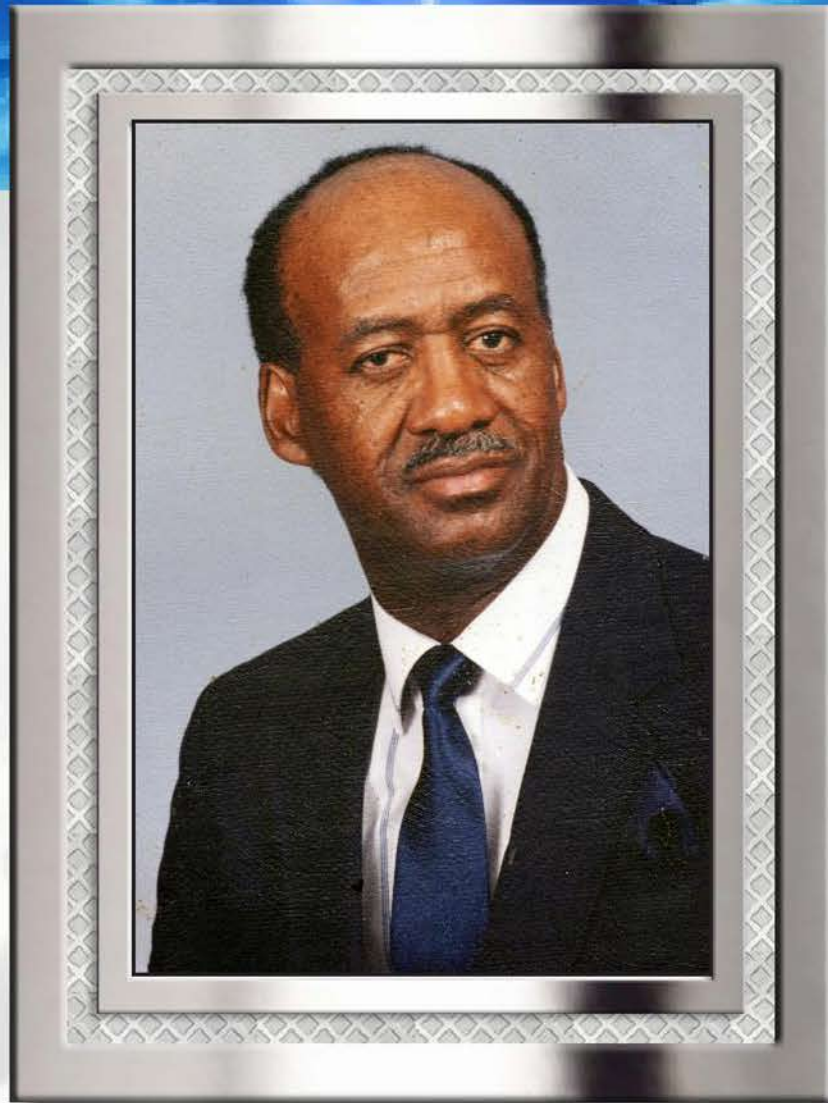


**It Is Our Moment In Time To Celebrate
and Honor The Life and Legacy of**



- Our Gift -
January 31, 1936

- God's Gift -
July 20, 2022

Thomas Benton

“Tonkie Gene”

Saturday, the 6th day of August, 2022
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Trinity United Methodist Church
2600 Holman Street • Houston, Texas 77004
Reverend Ed C. Jones III, Senior Pastor

A Wonderful Legacy

Very early in the morning, on January 31, 1936 Juanita Reynolds and Tom Benton, Jr. gave birth to **Thomas Gene Benton** in Waco, Texas.

At an early age, Thomas was baptized at St. James United Methodist Church in Waco, Texas. As a young boy, Thomas was active in church singing in the choir and in church programs. He began playing golf at the age of 9.

He attended South Waco School and graduated from AJ Moore High School in Waco, Texas in 1954. Thomas enlisted in the United States Air Force in September 1954 training in Denver, Colorado and Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Moving to Houston, Texas, Thomas made his church home with Trinity United Methodist Church and attended Texas Southern University (TSU) in September 1958. Initially majoring in Physical Therapy and receiving his Bachelor of Arts in 1967. At TSU, he met Faye Elizabeth Harris of Austin, Texas while they were both freshmen in 1959, and they married in September 1960 in Boston, Massachusetts. They returned to Houston and on May 6, 1965 their first daughter Lori Elizabeth Benton was born. Their second daughter Tyra Elizabeth Benton was born on May 14, 1971. Faye and Thomas remained married until January 1980.

Thomas worked at the United States Post Office as a clerk and mail carrier while continuing his college education. He set his sights on becoming a Customs Inspector working for the United States Department of Treasury. He studied, took the exam, and qualified receiving his promotion to Customs Inspector making sure no illegal/undocumented cargo entered the United States through Houston. While working as a Customs Inspector he provided superior service working at the Port of Houston and all of the airports in the greater Houston area. He was recognized on several occasions by his superiors and received many awards and certificates for his great service to our country and this region. He was promoted to a Senior Customs Inspector until his retirement serving our country for 39 years. He was awarded the prestigious Albert Gallatin Award

as evidence of his esteemed service by the former United States Secretary of the Treasury, Lloyd Bentsen in January of 1995. He retired successfully in 1995 enjoying his life and playing much golf and an active supporter of his high school and college alumni.

Later in life, he married Lynette Marie Williams of Houston, Texas in November 1981 and they remained married until September 2006. He did not sit around in retirement. He continued his passion of playing golf and teaching golf to some of the youth at various golf courses in Houston. He won many tournaments and was encouraged to pursue getting on the Senior PGA Tour. He declined as he wanted to play for his enjoyment and to keep active. He was a great golf player and won many tournaments. He met many golf pros and mentioned his fond times with golf legend Arnold Palmer and many other golf pros. There were many golf trophies and awards issued in his name.

He enjoyed dancing and was nicknamed "Fred Astaire" as he was a great two stepper and liked big band, jazz and gospel music. Early in the morning on July 20, 2022 passed away peacefully in his sleep, was a courageous fighter and never gave up hope in His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Juanita Reynolds and Tom Benton, Jr. both of Waco, Texas. The mother of his daughters, Faye Benton of Houston, Texas, sister Dorothy Benton and all of his brothers: Sammie Benton of Fort Worth, Texas, Sidney Benton of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Leroy Benton, and Carlton (Jody) Benton both of Waco, Texas. He will be greatly missed by so many.

He leaves behind both daughters, Lori Benton-Gerard of Humble, Texas; daughter, Tyra Benton of Houston, Texas; beloved son-in-law, Andrew Gerard, Jr. of Humble, Texas; special cousin, Mary Alice Reynolds-Jackson of Waco, Texas; sister-in-law, Shirley Knox Benton of Fort Worth, Texas; many other cousins, nieces, nephews, and other family members and many, many colleagues and friends.



Order of Service

“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.”

(Revelation 21:4)

Prelude

Processional.....Minister and Family

Words of Comfort.....Pastor Ed C. Jones III

Musical Selection.....“Amazing Grace”

Reading of the Holy Scriptures:

Old Testament.....Psalm 23

New Testament.....Acts 2:1-8

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection.....“Psalm 23”

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Expressions.....(Two Minutes Please)

Musical Selection.....“Thanks For Staying”

Eulogy.....Pastor Ed C. Jones III

Funeral Directors in Charge

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

*Please consider making donations to:
Alzheimer’s Association - In memory of Thomas Benton
<https://www.alz.org/texas>*

*Following the service, food will be served at the
Humble Civic Center - Ballroom 2
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. • Humble, Texas 77338*

Will those driving in the procession kindly turn on their headlights for safety

Expressions of Love

A father means....
A father means so many things
An understanding heart,
A source of strength and support
Right from the very start
A constant readiness to help
In a kind and thoughtful way.
With encouragement and forgiveness
No matter what comes your way
A special generosity and always affectionate, too
A father means so many things
When he's a man like you.....

We love you Daddy, Lori and Tyra

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free, I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call; I turned my back and left it all;
I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work, or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way; I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; ah yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much; good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief; don't lengthen it now with undo grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me God wanted me now, He set me free.

If you could see me now, you would not share a tear.
Though you may not understand why I'm no longer there.
Remember my spirit that is the real me because I'm still very much alive
I've just been set free, oh if you could only see!
I have beheld Our Father's Face and I've touched my Savior's Hand.
All of heavens angels rejoiced as I entered The Promised Land.
Beyond the gates of pearl, I've walked on the Golden Streets.
I've touched the walls of Jasper and dipped my foot in the Crystal Sea.
The beauty is beyond words, and nothing could compare,
I've seen your mansion and someday I'll meet you there.
Let Jesus be your guide because His Word will show you the way!
So please don't cry because we will meet again someday.

Love you all, Thomas

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me...

If tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise you find your eyes all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you
And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.
But when tomorrow starts without me please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.

He said my place was ready, in heaven far above
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.
But as I turned and walked away a tear fell from my eye.
For all my life I'd always thought, I didn't want to die.

I had so much to live for, so much left yet to do.
It seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.
I thought of all the yesterdays the good ones and the bad.
I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while,
I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized that this could never be,
For emptiness and memories would take the place of me.
When I thought of worldly things I might miss come tomorrow
I thought of you and when I did my heart was filled with sorrow.
When I walked through heavens gates I felt so much at home.
God looked down and smiled at me from his great golden throne

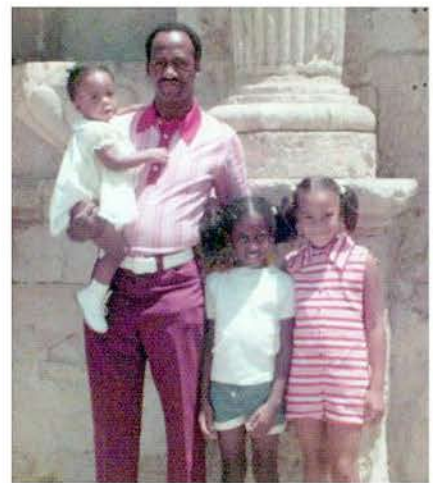
He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you"
Today your life on earth has passed but here life starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last
And since each day is the same there's no longing for the past.

You have been so faithful so trusting and so true.
Though there were times you did some things you knew you shouldn't do.

You have been forgiven and now at last you're free.
So won't you come and take my hand and share my life with me?
So when tomorrow starts without me don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.





Bearers of the Bier

Family and Friends

Honorary Pallbearers

Tillman Bailey, Jr.
Andrew A. Gerard, Jr.

Devin Farrell
Milton Martin, Jr.

Our Sincerest Gratitude...

*"There is an open gate at the end of the road through which each of us must go alone
and there is a light that we cannot see Our Father calls his own
and beyond the gate of love, one finds happiness and rest
and there is comfort in the thought that a loving God knows best."*

Lori, Andrew and Tyra and the rest of the family would like to say thank you to all who came out and participated in this great celebration. We thank each and every one of you for sacrificing your time and resources. Especially thankful for your prayers.

Special thanks to: Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital Humble, Texas, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Houston, Texas, Dr. James Armstrong of Armstrong Neurology Humble, Texas, Dr. Tai Nguyen of Progressive Medical Clinic Houston, Texas, Park Manor of Cypress Station Skilled Nursing & Rehab Houston, Texas, Elara Caring Pasadena, Texas; and Personal Caregivers, Nancy Chargois, Mashelle Thompson and Alberta Howell.

- The Family

And He Shall Rest at

Houston National Cemetery

10410 Veterans Memorial Drive • Houston, Texas 77038

Guided With Love by:

McCoy and Harrison Funeral Home

"A Family Serving Families Since 1926"

4918 Martin Luther King Blvd. • Houston, Texas 77021

Phone: (713) 659-7618 Fax: (713) 748-7122

Web: www.mccoyandharrison.com

Designed & Printed by:

Memorial Programs & Etc. by Myron Bruines© 832.506.0434

"Retaining The Memories, Maintaining The Integrity, Sustaining The Legacy"

Web: www.programsbymyronbruines.com