

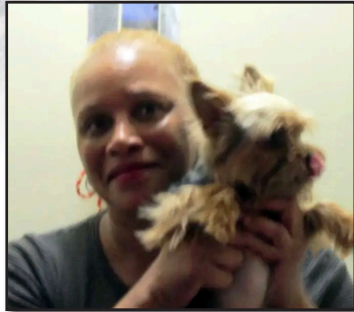


*“Keep me Humble so that
your light will shine
in my work, day by day
and night by night.”*



BENTA'S
Funeral Home, Inc.

630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 234-3600



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
DIANE THOMAS

SUNRISE: JANUARY 19, 1952 ~ SUNSET: MARCH 17, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 AT 4:00 P.M.

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.

630 SAINT NICHOLAS AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10030

PASTOR JAY GOODING, *Officiating*

**DISSOLUTION
WOODLAWN CREMATORY
BRONX, NEW YORK**

ORDER OF SERVICE

INVOCATION

Pastor Jay Gooding

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament

New Testament

PRAYER

Pastor Jay Gooding

OBITUARY READING

Taylor R. Solomon

(Granddaughter)

REFLECTIONS

Family & Friends

(Two Minutes Please)

EULOGY

James Boyd

WORDS OF COMFORT

Pastor Jay Gooding

COMMITTAL & BENEDICTION

Pastor Jay Gooding

RECESSIONAL



OBITUARY

DIANE THOMAS was born in New York City to Sally Jackson and Lawrence Thomas on January 19, 1952. She was the sixth of eight children.

Diane was raised in NYC where she attended both elementary and middle school. Her family then uprooted to Jacksonville, FL where she attended William M. Raines High School and graduated in 1970. She then moved to Tallahassee, FL to attend the illustrious Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, officially known as FAMU (go rattlers!) to study at the School of Education.

Diane thoroughly enjoyed her time at FAMU and was a 1975 graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Health & Physical Education. Shortly after graduation, she relocated to her birthplace of New York City where she enjoyed her post-grad life, worked, and then entered motherhood.

On July 17, 1977, her first child and baby girl Rashan Junay Thomas was born. Diane started their life in Harlem, then moved to Fordham Road, and ultimately laid her foundation in the Morrisania Section of the Bronx on 168th & Union Avenue. Shortly after becoming a mother, Diane studied for her teaching certification and then pursued her dream of being a teacher. She taught Health and Physical education at schools in the Bronx and Harlem. Being a natural educator, she had additional roles as a drug counselor and a double dutch instructor. While living her purpose, she met James Boyd Sr. and soon became a mother of two.

On January 13, 1985 her baby boy James Boyd Jr. was born and joined his mother and sister in their Union Avenue apartment. This apartment holds the memories of both Rashan and James' childhoods, their early adulthoods, and the familial energy on Union Avenue itself. While residing on this block for the last 41 years, Diane became an everlasting staple in the community. As Diane continued her life, she remained a teacher and a mother until she was granted a new role in the early 2000s.

On June 22, 2002 her first grandchild/granddaughter Taylor Rayne Solomon was born. Diane was thrilled to become a grandmother and gave her all to the position where she earned the name "Gram." As a grandmother she showed her love through babysitting, taking Taylor on various outings, and teaching her endless life lessons. Diane was able to gain a new love for life because of her grandbaby.

During her retirement, Diane fed her passion for law and advocacy through receiving her Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies from the Technical Career Institute. Diane remained active through going to the library, becoming a member at the local senior center, sewing, crocheting, beading/creating bracelets and other jewelry from scratch along with spending quality time with her family, both human and fur babies. Although she had been a veteran grandmother, she was elated to find out her role would continue with the birth of her grandson.

On February 2, 2021 her second grandchild and first grandson James Boyd III was born. Diane loved her role as a boy grandma and was just as active as the first time, which earned her the name "Nana." One of her favorite duties was keeping a smile on her grandson's face, as his happiness was a top priority. Having two replicas of her initial creations brought pure joy to her heart and being a mother/grandmother may have been her favorite role during her lifetime.

Diane was an all around educator and student of life. She was an avid reader and a socialite who could engage in conversation with anyone. She always gave good advice and was willing to give the shirt off her back to anyone in need. A fearless woman who walked in confidence with her chest poked out and chin held high. Any and everyone who knew her will miss her. She leaves to honor her memory: her two children Rashan and James, two grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.