



Pinklon "Big Boy" "Phil" "Bossman" Thomas Sr.

May 20, 1914 - December 23, 2014

THOMAS, Mr. Pinklon Sr., "Big Boy" "Phil" "Bossman" - Age 100, passed away Tuesday December 23, 2014 at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital. Family hour 10:00AM Tuesday December 30, 2014 at Franklin Road Church of Christ, 1400 Franklin Road. Brother Kevin Williams, officiating. Interment Perry Mount Park Cemetery, 878 N. Perry St. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10AM Tuesday. Mr. Thomas will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., and may be viewed from 2-8:00PM Monday.

Mr. Pinklon Thomas Sr, was born in Eatonton, Georgia, May 20, 1914, to Anderson Thomas and Ella (Pinkie) Boswell Thomas. His parents had a total of twenty two children combined and sixteen amongst themselves, he being the youngest. Pinklon struggled constantly in grade school with the spelling of his legal birth name "Pinkerton." He and his teacher formed a secret alliance and changed his name to something less complicated. He wore the proud name of Pinklon, derived from the name "Pinkerton". The teacher explained to him that no one would ever know.

As a young child he moved with his family to Ensly, Alabama where he learned to pick cotton from sun up to sun down. He worked for very low wages from 1921 through 1935, earning no more than 5-10 cents per hour. This was during the Great Depression, under the control of President Hoover. In 1927,

at the tender age of 13, he accepted the Lord as his personal savior at Shiloh Baptist Church, in Ensly.

In 1935, at the legal age of 21, he worked his first real job at Tennessee Coal Mine in Alabama. There he would earn a whopping 13 cents per hour, and worked ten hours per day. He was known for having a modest personality, he remained gainfully employed through the early forties. He made many friends, and loved the state of Alabama. He began singing, and joined a quartet group known as the "Four Great Wonders." They would sing in various churches and conventions, and were highly compensated. In 1941, he migrated to St. Paul, Minnesota. This relocation to Minnesota took place during the year of the Pearl Harbor bombing. This attack on Pearl Harbor would inevitably lead to his being drafted into the United States Army. He worked as a cook, and continued to make his way up in rank. He was promoted to Mess Sergeant and later a Technical Sergeant. This entitled him to carry the alias name of "Boss-Man". He traveled extensively, and he eventually settled in Pontiac, Michigan in March 1942. He continued his passion for singing with his distinguished baritone voice.

During this time he would meet the love of his life, Lorene Willie Beard on June 3rd, 1944 affectionately known as "Rene-Bene". He also worked with the Yellow Cab Company, and American Fordes and Sockets 1944-1959. In addition, to make ends meet, he worked at Oakland Park, as well as Pearls Chop Soui and Howard Johnson. During this time there were three children born, Audrey, Bernice and Pinklon Jr..

In 1970, he was baptized and became a faithful member of Franklin Road Church of Christ, under the leadership of Minister Kevin Williams. He was known for hosting weekly bible studies at his home. He had a passion for dressing with swag and wearing his borsalino hat. He was also known for cooking down home ox tails and mouth watering hams. Most importantly his

family tradition that not one birthday is spent with the absence of ice cream and cake. Because of him, this is a ritual amongst the Thomas family.

He would care for an older brother Lagree, visiting him daily at the hospital, nursing home wherever he needed to drive. He would also care for his wife Lorene, until God called her home in 2002. At the time of her death they were married 58 years! Upon turning 97 in 2011, his car keys were ultimately taken and secured. It was agreed upon by his children that driving was no longer an option. Due to health reasons he was forced to stop cutting his lawn. Until God called him home he continued to read his bible and watch WWW Wrestling and listening to his hymns.

He leaves to cherish his memories, two daughters, Audrey Jones, and Bernice Thomas both of Pontiac, Michigan. One son, Pinklon (DaJuana) Thomas, Jr. of Orlando, Florida nine grandchildren, Retina Thomas, Seneathra Thomas-Webb, Caswella Thomas, PaQuanna Jones, John Thomas all of Pontiac, Michigan, DeLonutia Ziegler, of Decatur, Georgia, Pinklon Thomas III, of Chicago, Illinois, Patrice Harrison and Pierra Thomas, both of Orlando, Florida.

Pinkon was preceded in death by his parents Anderson and Ella Thomas, all of his siblings and one son-in-law Hardeman Jones.

Cemetery Details

Perry Mount Park Cemetery

878 N. Perry St.
Pontiac, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac
268 North Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Family Hour

DEC **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Franklin Rd. Church of Christ
1400 Franklin Rd.
Pontiac, MI 48341

Funeral Service

DEC **30**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Franklin Rd. Church of Christ
1400 Franklin Rd.
Pontiac, MI 48341

Tribute Wall



“ *I would like to pray for da family..Rip.!!*

NorfgurlTrish Ellison-Walker - December 30, 2014 at 12:47 PM

BA

“ *What a wonderful long and beautiful life your dad had. We should all live so long.find comfort in knowing that the has earned his rest, and your family should be very proud of his accomplishments.
Your friend...Brenda (Lissone) Alexander*

Brenda Alexander-Lissone - December 29, 2014 at 07:08 PM

TW

“ *Rip, I would like to pray for the family, dis man lived 100yrs, he is the real king of the Southside....Islam...!!! From The Ellison & Walker Family....!!!*

Trish Ellison Walker.... - December 26, 2014 at 08:52 AM

MH

“ *Melanie Hurner sent a virtual gift in memory of Pinklon "Big Boy" "Phil" "Bossman" Thomas Sr.*



Melanie Hurner - December 25, 2014 at 10:58 AM

DJ

“ *My condolences to the family of Pinklon Thomas Sr. My Dad and Mr. Thomas were friends for a long time. I will be keeping you in all my prayers. What a blessing from God for Mr. Thomas to have been here for 100 years.*

Deloyd Brown Jr - December 25, 2014 at 07:55 AM

SC

Rest in Peace. Mr. Thomas was a wonderful man and an inspiration to many. My prayers and thoughts are with him and his family. He was the father of one of my best friends.

Steve Canton - January 06, 2015 at 12:08 PM