



## First Lady Edradean L. Thornton

November 5, 1939 - April 21, 2016

THORNTON, First Lady Edradean L. - Age 76, passed away Thursday, April 21, 2016 at her residence. Family hour 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 30, 2016 at New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church, G-1035 E. Carpenter Rd., with home going celebration commencing at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Patrick W. Sanders, Sr, Host Pastor, Pastor Link Howard III, Officiating, Pastor Kevin Thompson, Presiding. Interment Sunset Hills Association, 4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:30 a.m. Saturday. First Lady Thornton will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed Friday, April 29, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with family present 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to receive friends.

First Lady Edradean L. Thornton was born November 5, 1939 at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, MI; the daughter of Eleanor Giles and Willard Payne. Edra was affectionately known as "Deannie," she accepted Christ as her personal savior at the age of 10 while attending Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Edgar Timmons; while attending Metropolitan, Edra played the piano for Sunday School, served as an usher and sang in the teen choir.

Edra attended Flint Community Schools, Mott Community College and the University of Michigan Flint Campus. She was united in holy matrimony with her dearest friend John Thornton on July 20, 1963, this union was blessed with four children; Edward, Albert, Lorrie and Lonette.

In 1965, Edra followed her husband and became a charter member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. L.W. Owens. During her time at New Jerusalem, Edra served in numerous ministries: financial secretary, assistant to Sis. Brenda Floyd with the angel choir, organized the youth usher board with Delores Holbrook, organized the hospitality ministry and co-chaired the tape ministry with Delores Perry. Edra assisted with the pastor's anniversary, the nurses and health ministry and was active with UWON (United Women of New Jerusalem). She loved the Lord and serving His people; she served for 20 years with VCW (Victorious Christian Women) and attended Bible Study Fellowship International. Edra was an active member of Evergreen Estates Neighborhood Association. She delighted in sending inspirational cards to church members and bereaved families.

In 1993, Edra and her husband became members of Tabernacle of Faith Assembly in Richmond, Indiana; where he became the pastor and she served as the First Lady; in 2011 Edra became the First Lady of Historic Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of her husband, Pastor John Thornton.

Edra was employed by St. Joseph Hospital as a LPN from 1958-1974, then as a registered nurse until retiring in January 1997, after 39 years of dedicated service. Edra later became a tutor / mentor for the graduate nurses program with Mott Community College from 2006-2007. Her favorite pastimes included travelling, photography (she was the photographer of the photo of Rev. & Mrs. Owens, which hangs in the Ella Owens Center at New Jerusalem), shopping, scrapbooking and taking her grandchildren to special events such as hot air balloon festivals.

Edra leaves in Gods care, husband, Pastor John E. Thornton; daughters, Lorrie Leonard of Chicago, IL and Lonette Henderson of Reseda, CA; sons, Edward (Phyllis) Thornton of Indianapolis, IN, Albert Thornton of Battle Creek, MI; daughter-in-love, Lesia Thornton of Flint, MI; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; god-children, Michael (Dione) Willis of Illinois and Rev. Dr.

Teleah (Pastor Donald) Phillips of Albion, MI; sisters-in-law, Esther Perry of Chicago, IL, Reecy Outland of Flora, MS, Georgia Thompson and Pearl (Johnny) Berry, both of Detroit, MI, Dorothy Thompson of Swartz Creek, MI and Lillie Thornton of Flint MI; brother-in-law, Shedrick (Denise) Thornton of Jackson, MS; aunts, Bessie Hudson, Ogeal Yvette Young and Helen Giles all of Flint; cousins, Delcene (Jobe) Hughley of Detroit; special nieces, Mary Mason and Angie Thornton-George, special nephew, Pastor Kevin Thompson Sr., all of Flint; a host of other relatives and friends including childhood kindergarten friends "The Lady Vikings," Dorothy Jean Hawkins and Dovie Roberts, both of Flint MI; Delores Holbrook of Louisville, Texas, Ella Jackson of Burton, MI and Sandra Craddock of Detroit; travelling buddies, Lorna Triplett of Lansing MI; Pastor and Mrs. Link (Martha) Howard of Macomb Township, MI; special friends, Debora Baker of Flint, Doris Campbell of Lake Orion, MI; Juanda Matthews of San Diego, CA; Mary Scott, Cliff (Linda) Turner and family, Pastor Orlanda (Linda) Goodman, Deacon Frank (Mabel) Bell, Minister Tommie (Margaret) Chaney; all of Flint.

Edra was preceded in death by parents; grandparents; aunts, Garnetta Robinson, Ramona Clark, Claudia Simpson, Cynthia Tumer and Ruth Edwards; uncles, Kelly and Lonnie Giles; sisters-in-law, Alice Mason, Pauline Simmons and Doris Smith; brothers-in-law, Charles and Clifton Thornton; god-daughter Ragina Battles and cousin, Regina Edwards and several other relatives.

Special thanks to the many friends and family including Tonya Price, Nurse Michele and Reverence Hospice; Pastor Patrick Sanders Sr., and the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church family and Historic Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church family.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Hills Association

G-4413 Flushing Rd.  
Flint, MI

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

APR **29**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family Present

APR **29**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family hour

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

New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church  
1035 E. Carpenter Rd.  
Flint, MI 48505

## Homegoing Celebration

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APR **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church  
1035 E. Carpenter Rd.  
Flint, MI 48505

# Tribute Wall



“ *First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *I'm Bishop Allen Monegan of Phoenix Arizona, I just received the obituary in the mail, I was unaware of this great lost to the body of Christ and the Flint community.*

*First Lady Thornton was my mentor and friend my heart is saddened and hurt beyond measure, Dr. Thornton I'll be in touch next week, Sandra and I would have been there had we known. The Queen has gone to rest, I have peace having known her for the past 24 yrs. Let not heart be troubled you believe in God believe also in Me" The God of Peace will keep your hearts and Minds in Christ Jesus our Lord" God Bless and know we are with you during this time. New Family Worship Christian Center Church Family*



Dr. Allen Monegan Sr - May 21, 2016 at 11:55 PM



“ *Mother Mary Huddleston lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Mother Mary Huddleston - May 19, 2016 at 10:33 PM

BD

“ *Brenda Daniel-Thrower lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



**Brenda Daniel-Thrower** - April 30, 2016 at 09:38 AM

OT

“ *Ondria Tims*



**Ondria Tims** - April 30, 2016 at 07:30 AM

MC

“ *Marlene Cleveland-Hicks lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



**Marlene Cleveland-Hicks** - April 29, 2016 at 08:12 PM



“ *Dovie & Elmer Roberts sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



**Dovie & Elmer Roberts** - April 29, 2016 at 08:30 AM

PB

“ Pamela Goines Bolden lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradeon L. Thornton



Pamela Goines Bolden - April 28, 2016 at 10:43 PM

MW

“ Myra White lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradeon L. Thornton



Myra White - April 28, 2016 at 08:15 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of First Lady Edradeon L. Thornton.



April 28, 2016 at 07:00 PM

DF

“ Denise Steele And Family lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradeon L. Thornton



Denise Steele and Family - April 28, 2016 at 01:44 PM

DF

“ *Denise Steele And Family lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Denise Steele and Family - April 28, 2016 at 01:43 PM

SS

“ *SHERRY STEWART lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



SHERRY STEWART - April 28, 2016 at 06:49 AM

TS

“ *Trina Stewart sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Trina Stewart - April 27, 2016 at 10:17 PM



“ *Cabrina Clarke lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Cabrina Clarke - April 27, 2016 at 07:30 PM

MP

“ *Marilyn Twine & Marissa Pierce lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Marilyn Twine & Marissa Pierce** - April 27, 2016 at 07:07 PM

MT

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you Pastor Thornton and family. Marilyn Twine & Marissa Pierce.*

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**Marilyn Twine** - April 27, 2016 at 07:11 PM

GM

“ *GLORIA MOSES-COLEN lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**GLORIA MOSES-COLEN** - April 27, 2016 at 04:49 PM

GC

“ *GLORIA MOSES COLEN lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**GLORIA MOSES COLEN** - April 27, 2016 at 04:47 PM

MS

“ *Mrs Shawn Smith lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Mrs Shawn Smith** - April 27, 2016 at 09:15 AM

DR

“ *Damita Richard lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**damita richard** - April 27, 2016 at 06:04 AM

SL

“ *Shirley Lynn lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Shirley Lynn** - April 26, 2016 at 09:03 PM

AP

“ *AGCS (Julie, Dionne, Carol, Twilla, Debbi, Paul) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton.*



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**AGCS (Julie, Dionne, Carol, Twilla, Debbi, Paul)** - April 26, 2016 at 03:08 PM

CM

“ So saddened to hear that this dear lady has left us. I worked with Edradean for many years at St. Joseph Hospital & considered her a friend, spiritual mentor, & role model. She impacted so many lives by her kind, knowledgeable presence & we are all going to miss Edradean's bright light that she lovingly shown on all. Charlotte Menz

Charlotte Menz - April 26, 2016 at 02:39 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton.



April 26, 2016 at 01:42 PM

JD

“ Judith Dixon lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton



Judith Dixon - April 26, 2016 at 11:15 AM

NL

“ Nicole Lee lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton



Nicole Lee - April 26, 2016 at 11:00 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton.* ”



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April 25, 2016 at 08:37 PM



“ *Iris Hare lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton* ”



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**Iris Hare** - April 25, 2016 at 07:19 PM



“ *Melinda Pitts lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton* ”



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**Melinda Pitts** - April 25, 2016 at 07:15 PM



“ *Fred Tumer lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton* ”



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**Fred Tumer** - April 25, 2016 at 06:46 PM

YS

“ *Yolanda Shumpert lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Yolanda Shumpert - April 25, 2016 at 05:10 PM

MY

“ *MyrtleLee lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



myrtleLee - April 25, 2016 at 04:30 PM

PM

“ *On behalf of the True Light Christian church family, Lady Debra and I; we are praying for the entire Thornton family. The battle, for Sis. Thornton, has been fought. She kept the faith! And, victory has been won. May GOD'S abundant love and peace envelop the family during your time of bereavement.*

Pastor Gary Martin - April 25, 2016 at 04:26 PM

LG

“ *In Loving Memory... From L'Tanya (Pebbles)*



L'Tanya Green - April 25, 2016 at 02:29 PM

SH

“ *Shelia Hayman lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Shelia Hayman** - April 25, 2016 at 12:34 PM

KK

“ *First lady Edra, will definitely be missed, have a lot of memories of her as we shared in ministry in UWON....RIP*



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**Karen J Kendrick** - April 25, 2016 at 07:55 AM

AC

“ *Annette (Tuttie) Carlysle lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Annette (Tuttie) Carlysle** - April 24, 2016 at 07:47 PM



“ *Shawn Foster lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Shawn Foster** - April 24, 2016 at 05:44 PM



“ Michele Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of  
First Lady Edradean L. Thornton



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**Michele Davis** - April 24, 2016 at 04:05 AM

LR

“ May Your Loved One Rest In Eternal Peace

Lorene Randall



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**Lorene Randall** - April 24, 2016 at 02:30 AM

JK

“ Jesse & Dorothy Kirksey lit a candle in  
memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton



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**Jesse & Dorothy Kirksey** - April 23, 2016 at 09:51 PM

DR

“ To the Thornton family,

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of loss. May  
GOD bless you and keep you in the coming days.*

*Maudine Matthews,  
Denise Robinson and Zachary Robinson*

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**Denise Robinson** - April 23, 2016 at 07:20 PM

RS

“ Rev Dr Terry & Dr Carolyn Davis & Steele lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton



Rev Dr Terry & Dr Carolyn Davis & Steele - April 23, 2016 at 01:59 PM

SC

“ Prayers and my Condolences to The Thorton Family on the passing of First Lady I am so sorry for your lost! She was a Beautiful Lady with a Beautiful personality! 🙏 for The Family!!

sylvia Cabell - April 23, 2016 at 01:30 PM

RH

“ May God comfort and keep my dear family. RIH Sweet Lady. You will be missed...



Renee Hill - April 23, 2016 at 12:38 PM

SL

“ First Lady Thornton you are miss already, but we will meet again in the present of Almighty GOD and comfort to Dr, J, Thornton and family love you all.



Elder, Stanley Levy Jr.

Stanley Levy - April 23, 2016 at 10:27 AM

MD

“ *Mary Davis lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Mary Davis** - April 22, 2016 at 09:53 PM

NA

“ *Nadine Alexander sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Nadine Alexander** - April 22, 2016 at 09:45 PM

MM

“ *Great lady!!! I loved her soooo much! I did her nails for years and she was truly an angel... Marni*

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**marni mossman** - April 22, 2016 at 08:56 PM

LG

“ *Leroy & Cleola Griffis sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Leroy & Cleola Griffis** - April 22, 2016 at 07:57 PM

BA

“ *Bernice Abston lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Bernice Abston** - April 22, 2016 at 07:37 PM

JM

“ *Jeannie Mayberry lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Jeannie Mayberry** - April 22, 2016 at 02:34 PM

NJ

“ *May you rest in peace*



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**Norma Jones** - April 22, 2016 at 01:05 PM

CP

“ *ChaQuinta Price sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**ChaQuinta Price** - April 22, 2016 at 12:59 PM

TP

“ Tonya Price sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton



Tonya Price - April 22, 2016 at 12:57 PM

LE

“ PRAYERS! Prayers! Edra I remember so many times meeting with you to discuss VCW, registration and @ your home. Prayers to your entire family



Loria Corder, Grace Emmanuel - April 22, 2016 at 10:02 AM

TR

“ Minister Anna Johnson lit a candle in memory of "First Lady Edradean Thornton"



The Radiolady

The Radiolady - April 22, 2016 at 12:01 AM



“ Albert, It Sadden Me To Hear, Of The Passing Of Your Beloved Mother. Please Know, That I'm Praying For: You, Edward, Your Sisters & Dad! May God Embrace You All, With His Powerful Hand....I'm Praying For You All!



Doris Moore-White - April 21, 2016 at 09:37 PM

DB

“ *David & Dana Bush lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



David & Dana Bush - April 21, 2016 at 08:18 PM

CT

“ *Cleo Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



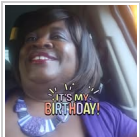
Cleo Thompson - April 21, 2016 at 06:56 PM



“ *Helen Davis lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Helen Davis - April 21, 2016 at 06:23 PM



“ *Sharon Mixon lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Sharon Mixon - April 21, 2016 at 06:18 PM

DP

“ *Dee Perry lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



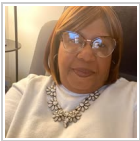
Dee Perry - April 21, 2016 at 05:41 PM

SE

“ *Sandra Epps sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Sandra Epps - April 21, 2016 at 03:35 PM



“ *ReGina Adams lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



ReGina Adams - April 21, 2016 at 03:05 PM

HM

“ *Heather Muddy lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



Heather Muddy - April 21, 2016 at 12:52 PM

SP

“ *Sandra Payne sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**sandra payne** - April 21, 2016 at 12:49 PM



“ *Kimberly Hall-Miller sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Kimberly Hall-Miller** - April 21, 2016 at 11:46 AM



“ *Kimberly Hall-Miller lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Kimberly Hall-Miller** - April 21, 2016 at 11:30 AM

CH

“ *Calvin And Pamela Hightower lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Calvin and Pamela Hightower** - April 21, 2016 at 10:51 AM

CH

*Our condolences to the family, prayers for comfort, strength, and peace. Edra was such a loving person. We shared so much when our children were growing up. She will be missed by her kindness and loving people.  
We love you.*

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**Calvin and Pamela Hightower** - April 21, 2016 at 10:56 AM

NB

“ *N.J.F.G.B.C. Mothers' Board lit a candle in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**N.J.F.G.B.C. Mothers' Board** - April 21, 2016 at 10:19 AM

LD

“ *Lady Di sent a virtual gift in memory of First Lady Edradean L. Thornton*



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**Lady Di** - April 21, 2016 at 10:18 AM