



# Thomas Yarborough

APR 23, 1934 - DEC 5, 2021



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## T homas' Time on Earth...

Thomas "Tommy" Yarborough, Jr., age 87, of Greenwood, Delaware, passed away in the loving arms of his youngest brother, surrounded by family after succumbing to COPD on Sunday evening, December 5, 2021. Compassionate Care Hospice provided at home support during his month's long illness.

Tommy was born on April 23, 1934, son of the late Thomas Yarborough and Dorothy (Alston) Yarborough in Nashville, North Carolina. He was the second oldest of eleven siblings. He often had the family laughing about the stories of how challenging it was being the only boy at home with so many sisters. His two brothers were not born until after he left home. Thomas was educated at Nash County School. At an early age he gave his life to the LORD, was baptized, and later left North Carolina and moved to Bridgeville, Delaware where he worked various jobs until he found his niche at Cannon Foods, Inc. During this time, he was introduced to his soul mate Louise Cannon at the Bridgeville theatre. After a year of courtship, they were married, and soon thereafter moved to Fort Gordon, Georgia after being drafted into the Army.

Upon completion of his military service in 1957, Tommy returned to Bridgeville with his wife and newborn son where he resumed his employment at Cannon Foods. With a collection of hard backs from Popular Mechanics, electrical correspondent courses from Coyne College in Chicago, his GED and continuous professional development he worked his way up from apprentice to Master Technician, then ultimately to Director of Planning, the position he held until the plant's closure in 1981. He then went to work for Shoreman Food Technologies (Kraft Foods) in Federalsburg, Maryland as a Maintenance Supervisor until his retirement in 2001.

Tommy was very industrious, LOVED to work, and worked hard at it. He taught family if you love the job you do, you'll never work a day in your life. His key rule was to just SHOW UP - on time preferably! He was the ultimate problem solver. He said if he didn't have a tool to fix something,



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he'd make one, and he often did. The most important tool he created was the home he built for his wife and beautiful family.

Tommy was a family man, but his earnest care extended further, into his community. Tommy was invited into the Industrial Arts classroom in his hometown of Bridgeville to speak to and inspire all youth to pursue mechanical and electrical trades. Albert Weal, an old family friend stated, Mr. Yarborough "is a Hero to all the Black youth of our time. He was the only certified Black electrician we knew in Bridgeville and possibly all of Sussex County". Tommy enjoyed fixing electrical malfunctions for an endless list of little ole ladies for which he'd often take a meal in lieu of pay. In addition to bringing his own family together every five years for family reunions beginning in 1980, he brought neighborhood families together through the Community Club they organized in Forest Green in the late 60's. For many springs and summers, they would gather at his home to roast a hog over a fresh built fire pit.

Tommy brought his children up making seasonal road trips to Newark, New Jersey to visit his parents and siblings, and to Rocky Mount North Carolina to see his grandmother, aunts and uncles. In 1974 he moved his parents back to the country onto his property in Greenwood to have them closer to him in their later years. He loved to be outdoors, hence, his great affinity for gardening. Tommy always had a productive garden of fruits and vegetables; skills learned working with his dad who was once a sharecropper down south. He always had a few hobbies and projects he was working on; Tommy often tried his hand at making wine from his grape vines. He was very successful...albeit successful at making both wine and vinegar. In his later years, he'd always use the monetary gift from Immanuel to make improvements on his property.

He did this to make the next gathering better when Immanuel House of Praise's congregation gathered for their annual summer picnic at his home. Tommy always filled his home with music, giving his family an appreciation of country, rhythm and blues, jazz, and on Sundays, gospel. He always said he just likes the music, but as Troy Lee put it, we all know he was an undercover Jesus freak.

Tommy, also affectionately known as "June" is survived by his faithful wife of 65 years, time well spent building a marriage with Louise Cannon Yarborough of Bridgeville, DE. He leaves to mourn his passing four children: Troy Lee Yarborough of North Charleston SC, Thomas Yarborough, III (Kimmie), Nikki Hill, Yolanda Eileen Hutson (Skip) all of Greenwood DE; eight grandchildren: Thomas Yarborough, IV of Sierra Vista AZ, Keyana Hill of Denton MD, Jerome



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Alan Hutson, II and Joseph Thomas Hutson both of West Chester PA, Jeffon Hill of Bridgeville DE, Jere' Louise Hutson of Greenwood DE, Yasmine Hill of Dover DE, Indya Rene Yarborough of Tulsa OK, Jasmine and Ka'mari Yarborough both of Arizona, McKenzie Hill of Denton MD, Memory Hill and Razayah Pickett both of Seaford DE; eight brothers and sisters: Wyomia Matthews of Seaford DE, Lois Sapp of Hillside NJ, Alice Yarborough of Wilmington DE, Bessie Mae Christian of Millsboro DE, Mary LaFranque of Newark NJ, Martha Moore of Easton PA, Vincent Yarborough of Felton DE and Charles Yarborough of Monroe Township NJ. He is also survived by two living aunts, Lauree Jones (Larry-deceased) of Rocky Mount NC, and Olive "Puddin" Alston (Willis-deceased) of Seaford DE; many wonderful Nieces, Nephews, Cousins--a special cousin, Betty Jean Wright (Keith) of Seaford DE, a Band of Bridgeville Brothers from the Breakfast Club, neighbors and friends.

Of those Tommy loved, he was preceded in death by his forementioned parents, two sisters, Aileen and Dorethea (Minnie) Stephens (Steve--also deceased), five other brothers in law; Harold Matthews, Freddy Moore, Moses Sapp, Chris Christian, and Leander Orbin LeFranque, six Alston aunts and uncles and sixteen Yarborough aunts and uncles and a special cousin, Bill Alston (Moe). Lovingly Submitted, The Family

♀Memorial Services will be held at 11:00AM on Friday, December 17th, 2021, at Immanuel House of Praise Church, 23094 Atlanta Road, Seaford, Delaware, where Pastor Carlton E. Bowers, Jr. will be conducting the Ceremony and Eulogy.

Due to Cremation, the reception will immediately follow. However, giving thought to COVID19, we have agreed to have repass dinners prepackaged in takeout trays packed for everyone to grab and exit the building. Immediate family and those who have traveled from afar can stay and eat in the Multipurpose room.

All donations can be mailed to Tommy's wife, Mrs. Louise C. Yarborough, 14894 Adams Road, Greenwood, Delaware 19950.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.




# Events


**Thomas Yarborough**

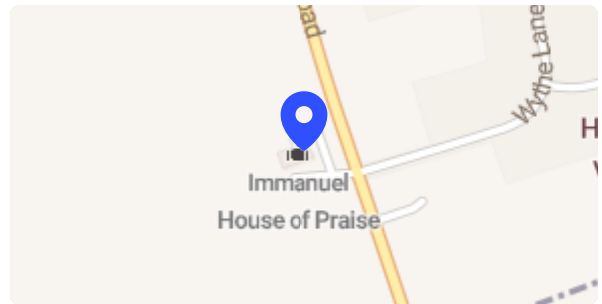
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## Memorial Service

 **Friday**, December 17, 2021

 11:00 AM ET

 **Immanuel House of Praise Church**  
23094 Atlanta Road,, Seaford DE 23094





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Yarborough family.

December 15 at 3:09 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Yarborough family.

December 15 at 8:43 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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