

Flower Bearers

Family & Friends

Pallbearers

Maurice Bess, Wardell Wright, Jerome Waters,
Kenneth Barnes, and Josh Coleman

Acknowledgements

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions. Your phone calls, visits, flowers, donations and prayers were needed and much appreciated during our time of bereavement. God bless each of you.

The Family

Professional Services are Entrusted to



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Tabiyes87@gmail.com

A Celebration of Life



Mrs. Gussie Mae
THOMAS-BESS

MAY 06, 1946 – MARCH 24, 2026

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 01, 2026 @ 3:00 PM
GREEN GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
SMITHVILLE, GA
REV. GLENN BRYANT, PASTOR

Reflections of Life

Mrs. Gussie Mae Bess (Thomas) was born on May 6, 1946, in Smithville, Lee County, Georgia, to the late William Thomas, Jr., and the late Flossie French Thomas. She received her education in the public school system of Lee County, attending Lee County Training School.

At an early age, Mrs. Bess confessed her faith in Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. She united with Jerusalem Grove Baptist Church and later became a devoted member of Green Grove Baptist Church.

On March 24, 2026, Mrs. Gussie Mae Bess peacefully transitioned from this life to eternal rest. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Marlo Thomas and Ada Marie Thomas-Barner; and her brothers, Jessie Thomas and Henry Thomas.

She leaves to cherish her loving memory her four children: Teresa (Larry) Lawson; Michael (Lisa) Bess; Tara (Milton) Kleckly; and Loretta (Tony) Berryhill; and two kids: William, Angela, and granddaughter Tiffany Bess.

She is also survived by four sisters: Carrie Mae Thomas; Annie (George) Peeples; Doris (William) Angry; and Patricia Thomas, all of Smithville, Georgia; four brothers: Charlie Thomas of Smithville, Georgia; Wardell (Diane) Thomas of Preston, Georgia; William (Mary) Thomas of Leslie, Georgia; and Leon (Phillis) Thomas of Petersburg, Virginia; four aunts: Dorothy Rollins, Dorothy Ree Richardson, Sarah Bell Marshall, and Mary French; and her uncles, Jimmy Thomas and David Thomas, both of Dunkirk, New York; a devoted god-sister, Barbara Adams of Atlanta, Georgia; a god-brother, James Champion of Smithville, Georgia; a special niece/sister, Dorothy Barnes (Robert); along with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends.

Mrs. Bess was blessed with 14 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, all of whom will continue to honor her legacy.

Order of Service

1946

MUSICAL PRELUDE
Johnson & Son Funeral

G

PROCESSIONAL/
CLOSING OF THE CASKET
Clergy, Family & Friends

U

PRAYER OF COMFORT
Minister

S

S

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Old & New Testament
Minister

I

E

REFLECTIONS
Limited to 4 People
(2 Minutes Please)

SELECTION
Johnson & Son Funeral Service

B

WORDS OF COMFORT
Minister

E

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Johnson & Son Staff

S

COMMITTAL RITUAL/ RECESSIONAL
Minister

S

INTERMENT
Green Grove Church Cemetery

2026