



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Mrs. Lois

THOMAS-EWINGS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Saturday, November 25, 2023
12:00 PM

MORTON THEATRE
195 West Washington Street
Athens, Georgia 30601

Acknowledgement

The family of Mrs. Lois Thomas-Ewings would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions. Your phone calls, visits, flowers, thoughts, and prayers have all helped greatly during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless each of you, is our prayer.

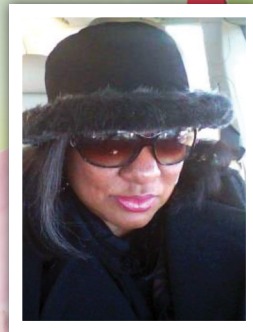
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Life Story of Lois Thomas - Ewings



LOIS THOMAS-EWINGS was born on September 1, 1955, in Cincinnati Ohio. She was the last of three daughters born to the late Mamie L. (Talbert) Thomas and James Edward Thomas. Lois Thomas-Ewings transitioned to eternal rest on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Lois was preceded in death by her mother, Mamie L. Thomas; father, James E. Thomas; one sister, Pamela S. Thomas; father-in-law, Lewis C. Ewings; sister-in-law, Annette Butts; and a brother-in-law, Curtis Ewings, Sr.

Mrs. Thomas-Ewings began dancing at age six at the YWCA in her neighborhood. Throughout high school, she participated in her school's modern dance club, where she choreographed and performed for various dance productions. Lois was a proud 1973 graduate of Courter Technical High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. After high school, she attended the University of Cincinnati, majoring in African American studies. While attending the university, Lois took art and dance classes at the Cincinnati Arts Consortium. She studied classical ballet under Cincinnati's Ballet Mistress, Jane Burkhalter, and danced under the tutelage of Adeleke Adibisi in the West African Drum and Dance Ensemble.

Lois continued her education at El Camino College in Alondra Park, California, majoring in music and dance. Later in life, Lois would study at the University of Georgia. In addition to her studies, Lois served as Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force Reserves from 1983-1989.

Mrs. Thomas-Ewings resided for seven years out west in Arizona, California, and Nevada. In Los Angeles, CA, she was a choreographer and dancer with El Camino Concert Dance Ensemble and Oui Geometer Dance Company. Teaching became her passion in 1975, while teaching classes to underprivileged children in a small neighborhood community center. Lois taught children and adult classes for the City of Inglewood's Cultural Arts Division, and she created and directed a children's performing company called O Geometer Dance Ensemble.

In 1985, Lois moved to Athens, Georgia where she began teaching and mentoring young girls at Heard Park, formerly named East Athens Community Center. In 1987, Lois Thomas-Ewings founded the East Athens Educational Dance Foundation. The foundation initially began as a volunteer program offering classes to children from the Nellie B. Public Housing community. Under her vision and leadership, Lois developed a one-of-a-kind program focusing on African American children who lacked opportunities to experience the art of dance. In 1992, she submitted a proposal to occupy the vacant facility at Dudley Park. The program's name later changed to "East Athens Educational Dance Center."

Over the years, the dance center gained local recognition from its many performances at the Morton Theatre, schools, educational programs, community organizations, and cultural arts events. During her 30 years of service with Athens Clarke-County Unified Government, Lois taught more than 3,500 students in Athens and surrounding areas. In addition to her work with the East Athens Educational Dance Center, Lois served as the director for the YWCO Girls Club and the director of the Pamoja Dance company at The University of GA. While serving in these roles, Lois mentored and taught a number of other students. She's received numerous awards for her work in the community, and later retired as founder, facility supervisor and artistic director of the East Athens Educational Dance Center on December 30, 2016. Following retirement, Mrs. Thomas-Ewings returned to her initial interest in painting. Her series of paintings, titled "Mythical Reality", depicting dancers and Black mythology was exhibited at the Lyndon House Arts Center during the summer of 2023.

In 1992, Lois met the love of her life, Landy Ewings. The couple married on February 7, 2005, and the Lord allowed them to enjoy many wonderful years together, with a love story spanning 31 years. When asked what her greatest accomplishment was, Lois answered, "The opportunity I have had through the years to work with so many talented young people, and my marriage to Landy Ewings."

The perseverance of Lois Thomas-Ewings paved the way and inspired many children and women to become mature successful adults. Lois left a heartfelt soul print and touched everyone that she encountered. She was a very caring and giving woman. Lois was an amazing wife, dancer, choreographer, dance instructor, painter, mentor, sister, and a mother figure to many of her students. She would help anyone in need.

Her memory will forever be cherished by her loving and dedicated husband, Landy Ewings; one sister, Garlene Diane Robinson; two nieces, Sabreen Robinson and Monette Thomas; two nephews, Craig Robinson and Cory Robinson; two great nephews, Tyler Thacker and Tyrese Thacker; mother-in-law, Rosie Lee Ewings; one sister-in-law, Donna Ewings; three brothers-in-law, David Ewings, Ray (Chandra) Ewings, Sr., and Michael Ewings; two stepchildren, Ashley Ewings and Landrell Payne; one God-sent daughter, Tenisha Cole, and one bonus daughter, Nicole Hopkins; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends that were very close to her heart. Lois will be missed immensely by her family and friends.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." - Matthew 25:23



Order of Service

Tenisha Cole, Mistress of Ceremony
Chaplain Ken Straughter, Eulogist

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOMING BACK TO THE MOTHERLAND
Drummers: Waverly T. Lucas II & Barago
Dancers: Nena Gilreath, Dr. Theresa Howard, Sydni Sims, Tajah Thomas and Charity Lee

PRAYER
Chaplain Ken Straughter

PSALM 23
India Bolds Browne

POEM
Nicole Hopkins

REFLECTIONS:
Kent Kilpatrick
Joel Cordle
Lynn Green
Nena Gilreath
Nina Billups
Ronda Price Holmes, Friend
Kashavia Wright, Former Student
Tikica Benjamin, Former Student
Dr. Shawna Lynn Huff, Former Student
Sabreen Robinson, Niece
Landy Ewings, Spouse

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL BY
GEORGE BENSON
E.A.E.D.C. Students
Tajah Thomas and Charity Lee

LIFE STORY
Jasmine Dixon

DANCE SCRIPTURE
2012 Archival Video
The Silver Anniversary Celebration of Dance

EULOGY
Chaplain Ken Straughter

TAKE IT TO JESUS
2007 Archival Video
Keeping the Spirit Alive

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Sheena Watkins

RECESSIONAL
Get Up Offa That Thing

