

Robert S. Thomas

July 13, 1979 - February 10, 2026

Robert Thomas was born on July 13, 1979, in Detroit, MI, to Robert Thomas and Sheila Owens of Detroit, MI. Robert was easy to raise, if he was disciplined by his mom, it would last him a long time. He got it that his mother didn't play NO games. Robert enjoyed playing football with his childhood friends. He also loved to sleep over his grandma's house along with his older siblings and they would race to see who was going to sleep in the bed with "Queen". He was educated in the Detroit Public Schools system, attending Cass Technical High School and later graduating from Chadsey High School in 1997.

On April 22, 1997, Robert met his "Babe", his one great love, Hanna Burrell. They were both employed at Kids Foot Locker in Northland Mall. It was not love at first sight, but it was definitely a love that was predestined and ordained by God.

Robert and Hanna were married on July 27, 2002. They celebrated the birth of their first child, his namesake and his spitting image, Robert Shawn Thomas Jr., on October 31, 2002. On August 27, 2007, they welcomed their baby girl, Halina Christian, whom he affectionately called "MaMa."

During his younger years, he attended Solomon's Temple with his family. He later accepted Christ at Metropolitan Community Tabernacle Church under the

leadership of Pastor George Washington. He was an active member of the church and enjoyed working with the youth. He served for Harvest Night and taught Vacation Bible School. In 2014, he and his family began attending Berean Chapel, under the leadership of Pastor Henry L. McClendon, where he helped with the Clothing Ministry, Food Drive Ministry, and Vacation Bible School. During his time at Berean, he also studied under Pastor Hood to deepen his understanding of biblical theology. In 2018, Robert and his family joined GEM - Global Empowerment Ministries, under the leadership of Art Cartwright, where he served faithfully on the Security Team.

Whether you knew him as Robert, Big Rob, the Gentle Giant, Champ Chambers, or Big Pun, his light-hearted, laid-back personality will always be remembered. He was knowledgeable, excellent with numbers, wise beyond his years, and always a comedian. He was a jokester and loved to laugh, often serving as comedic relief for family and friends. He played way too much! He loved to reference movie quotes; some of his favorites were “Are we wearing the hoods or not?” from Django and “I find that an occasion to stand up and be counted” from Wild Wild West. He often played pranks with a straight face, like going to Wendy’s and joking with the staff that he heard on the radio that the kids’ meals are free today!

He enjoyed power lifting and made many friends at the Romulus Rec Center. He had a great love for all types of music; his favorite was Jazz. Rap music held a special place in his heart. He loved to spit those bars and created two CDs totaling 20 songs. He enjoyed ALL types of sports. He was an avid X-Box player and pool player; he loved to travel and watch the sunset. He also had an affinity for lions, the animal, not the “Detroit Kittens” as he called them! Wherever Robert was, there was sure to be jokes and laughter. Whenever friends and family were leaving, he would jokingly say “See you in a month” or “I’ll be seeing you”!

Our beloved Robert departed this world unexpectedly on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. His generosity, kindness, love, laughter, and humorous antics will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and community.

Robert was preceded in death by Great-grandmother, Josephine Walker, whom he enjoyed spending time with at the race-track, and is often remembered for the hilarious story of the time she left Robert on the bus as a child! His Grandmother Essequena (Queen) Jones, from whom he gained his love of movies.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and devoted wife of twenty- three years, Hanna, whom he affectionately called "Babe". His namesake Robert, his baby girl, Halina. His beloved mother Sheila Owens whom he affectionately referred to as "Mom Dukes". His Mother-in-love, Toni Burrell, who he lovingly referred to as "Mom". He will be deeply missed by his sisters; Chevon Jones, Raeshawn Bumbers, Tiara (Shabba) Owens, and Latoya Owens. His sisters-in-love, Tabatha Carter (Thomas) and Summer Beale (Blake) His nephews, Wesley Jones Jr., Tywaun Brooks, Josiah and Jeremiah Brooks, Lamont Foster, Blake Jr., Ryan Russell and Jace Lee. His nieces; Arika Taylor, Darlene Luke, Nina and Navia Jones, Honesty Brooks. Asia, Brittany, Taylor and Courtney Russell. Great nieces; Raina Russell and Aria Jones, and his close friend Jerome Dubois (JD).

Robert leaves a legacy of love, laughter, and amazing memories for his cousins, other relatives, neighbors, friends, church members and co-workers.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family Hour

FEB **20**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

FEB **20**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
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Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Livestreamed Funeral Service in memory of Robert S. Thomas*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 20 at 12:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert S. Thomas.

February 20 at 01:06 PM



“ *Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Robert S. Thomas.*



February 20 at 01:06 PM

SB

“ When JD text me the news i stopped everything, I was doing to say a prayer and went back to my memories when we used to throw weights around at the RAC every morning for years at 5AM (well 530 if you were JD). We had kept in touch but have not seen each other for years. This world needs more people like Big Rob in it not less. it was truly an honor to know him. I am truly heartbroken for the family and friends that knew him. I hope that you all can find comfort in that he is at peace and with our lord.

Until we meet again my friend

-Steve

Steve Burkhart - February 20 at 11:02 AM

SB

“ I'm so glad I had the privilege and opportunity to know your husband Hanna, Big Rob what a wonderful guy

What stands out most for me about Rob is that he knows the truth, I say knows because our body is a tabernacle, and the definition of a tabernacle is a temporary dwelling place, so his soul dwelled in this tabernacle here on this earth plane and now his soul dwells with our Heavenly Father. I know that because I had conversations with Rob and found that he knew the truth, I found that our father was in Rob just like myself and Rob was in our father. He knew him and he knew his name. He knew him not as God because it's written that there are Lord's many and God's many also God is a title not a name. We were talking once and I said to Rob. I hate to call him God, Rob said call him Yah as he said so calmly which is short for Yahweh and my heart smiled, I said to myself, he knows

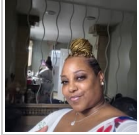
Death comes not as an enemy to those that love our savior and when it comes to his Saints, to be absent from the body is to be present with our Heavenly Father.

As our hearts are truly saddened which they should be, they are not broken because Rob is with our Savior and WE WILL SEE HIM AGAIN

I Love You

Uncle Steven

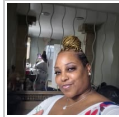
Steven Burrell - February 20 at 09:05 AM



“ Carolyn Libra lit a candle in memory of Robert S. Thomas



Carolyn Libra - February 20 at 02:43 AM



Wow, this is really heart breaking. My Prayers go out to the family. I met Robert at Woodbridge where he trained me on the production line. He was such a nice young man and spoke very highly of his wife and kids. He had such a good humor and very funny, always love to make people laugh. I still remember when he and Hanna started their business "Two fold egg rolls" they were amazingly good. Hanna, my Prayers are with you and your sweet babies. To his Mom, sisters, brothers and all his family, I pray for comfort and healing at this difficult time. Blessings to you all 🙏

Carolyn Libra - February 20 at 02:54 AM

JF

“ Judah and the David Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert S. Thomas.



Judah and the David Family - February 18 at 10:21 AM

YF

“ Your ASF Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert S. Thomas.

Your ASF Family - February 17 at 10:42 AM

YF

“ *Your ASF Family purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Robert S. Thomas.*



Your ASF Family - February 17 at 10:42 AM

TC

“ *My brother in love will be dearly missed. We traveled together for many years to Florida to see family. He was who I looked to, to lead us up the highway at one of the most difficult times of my life. I trusted his judgment. My girl love their uncle Robert and his sense of humor or just going to the house to chat. But the best memory they shared with me was of them remembering when he went forward to accept Christ at church. He was a family man and a gentle giant and love by everyone who knew him.*

Love you brother!

Tab

Tabatha Carter - February 17 at 12:25 AM

DJ

“ *My sincere condolences to the family, Big Rob was my coworker at Woodbridge for many years a good friend good co-worker good union brother he was always good for a great laugh and liked to make people laugh he will be dearly missed.*

Donald Lee Johnson Jr - February 13 at 05:56 PM

BM

“ Sending heartfelt prayers, condolences, and hugs to the family! Bro. Robert was a great guy. He was always supportive and encouraging others to go after their dreams/goals. God has him now so rest in peace knowing that he is with our Creator.

Bupé Mulenga

Bupé Mulenga - February 13 at 03:54 PM

YR

*I have been friends with Robert mom Shelia for over 40 plus years I knew knew him since he was a baby always quiet and that beautiful smile u will truly be miss my prayers are with the family luv u guys.
YVONNE*

Yvonne Rabb - February 14 at 08:50 AM

MB

It broke my heart to hear that Robert passed. We will miss him dearly! Robert and Hanna were among the first people we met at Global Empowerment Ministries and were a big part of us feeling at home there. Lots of indepth conversations out in the hall. We love his family very much and pray they feel his spirit always.

Michelle and Brian - February 19 at 09:26 AM