



## Thomas E. Royster

September 7, 1928 - August 9, 2019

Thomas affectionately known as 'Tom Ellis' was born on September 7, 1928 in Littleton, North Carolina to the late Reverend Presly Royster and Beatrice 'Aunt Pat' Zollicoffer Royster. On August 9, 2019 Thomas peacefully slipped away to be with the Lord and reunited with his parents, wife, siblings and other family members and friends that preceded him in death.

Thomas was known to be very mischievous in his youth and often got into trouble playing with his six siblings and cousins in the country. He also loved to watch the pretty girls and flirt. He loved to dance and go to cabarets where he could show off his James Brown moves and say, 'Right On'! In addition, Thomas was known to have magic hands. He could fix or grow just about anything! If you needed your car fixed or wanted some big juicy tomatoes, you could rely on him. He was also an avid bowler and was on several winning leagues. As a "Traveling Man" Thomas loved traveling the highways in his Cadillac to visit family and friends and care for the family home.

Thomas received his education from McIver High School in Littleton, North Carolina and later enlisted in the United States Army. After an honorable discharge, he relocated to Baltimore where he spent many years working at Bethlehem Steel Company before retiring. Thomas was joined in matrimony to Dora "Doll" Royster for over 55 years before she transitioned to be with the Lord on December 20, 2017.

He gave his life to God at an early age as he grew up in the church. He loved Fidelity Baptist Church in Littleton, North Carolina. He often remarked about the family gatherings and reunions that took place there and hearing his favorite song, "Sit Down Servant". After moving to Baltimore, he later joined and became an active and faithful member of The Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Thomas served as an usher and was well known for his smooth lively steps (as he was very tall) and friendly manner on communications. He especially enjoyed singing, fellowshiping and dining at his home church.

Thomas was very active in his East Arlington Neighborhood. He could often be seen

walking, riding his bike, attending neighborhood meetings, concerts and leading beautification projects. He was an honorary 'Honey Do' for the members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Omega Chapter's programs and services held at their Ivy Center.

Thomas began his Prince Hall Masonic career 55 years ago by being initiated into Jerusalem Lodge #59 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland. He served several terms as Worshipful Master of the Lodge after which he received Past Master honors. He also served as treasurer and committee chairman for many of the Lodge's social functions. He loved being an active participant in the craft and gathering with his Brethren. His mentorship and leadership qualities will live on forever and he will be missed by many in the Masonic Family.

Thomas leaves to mourn: his son, Thomas Royster, Jr.; two granddaughters, Sherry Royster and Sharlene Royster; a sister, Lorell Shaw; sisters-in-law, Helen Royster, Inez Royster and Doris Royster; brother-in-law Kennard Smith, Jr. (Rose); goddaughter, Lurita Johnson; a very close niece, Valerie Shaw; as well as a host of beloved nieces, nephews, and friends.

# Cemetery

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## Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road  
Owings Mills, MD,

# Events

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**AUG** **Viewing** 02:00PM - 07:00PM

**16**

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March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road, Windsor Mill, MD, US

**AUG** **Family Hour** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**16**

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March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
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**AUG** **Wake** 10:00AM - 10:30AM

**17**

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March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
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**AUG** **Service** 10:30AM

**17**

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