

The Legacy  
Still Lives On

Dec. 12, 1932 - Aug. 6, 2012



**Thomas "Sam" Bass, Jr.**

*Memorial Service*

*Wednesday, August 22, 2012*

*Fellowship - 10:00 A.M. Service - 11:00 A.M.*

*Evangel Cathedral - Bishop's Chapel*

*13901 Central Avenue*

*Upper Marlboro, MD 20774*

*Bishop Don D. Meares, Senior Pastor*

*Elder Willie Perrin - Officiating*

**OBITUARY**

**THOMAS "SAM" BASS, JR**  
**MSGT, United States Air Force, Retired**

Thomas "Sam" Bass, Jr. peacefully passed away on August 6, 2012. He was born on December 12, 1932, in Elizabethton, TN, to the late Thomas and Sarah Bass. He grew up in the coal-mining town of Jenkins, KY. After graduating in 1951, from Dunham High School, he joined the United States Air Force.

While stationed in Austin, TX, he met Katherine Cyphers whom he married in June of 1956. From this union they were blessed with two children, Terry and Sarah. He later remarried the late Georgia Armstrong in the fall of 1966. From this union they were blessed with one daughter, Donna Lynn.

During his military career, Thomas was stationed at Andrews and Bolling Air Force Bases. While at Bolling, he worked with the Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory in the 89th Field Maintenance Squadron. After serving 26 years of active duty he retired in 1979, but remained active at Andrews where he volunteered in the prostate clinic at the Malcolm Grow Medical Center. He was an active member of the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen and longtime treasurer for the Air Force Association.

Education was very important to him. Thomas and several Tuskegee Airmen often spoke at county schools. At each school he encouraged the students to stay in school and spoke on careers in aviation. He received numerous letters from students expressing their gratitude and appreciation for his encouragement. In his latter years, he volunteered as a docent at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Every year Thomas attended the Eastern Kentucky Social Club reunion to meet with his old classmates and hometown friends. His son will continue this lifelong tradition. Thomas' favorite therapy (as he called it) was singing karaoke at the Fox Den Enlisted Club on Andrews. Everyone enjoyed his rendition of "Old Blue Eyes" by Frank Sinatra.

Thomas loved attending church. He attended the Andrews and Bolling Air Force Base chapels. His son had the pleasure of leading him to Christ, which was an awesome answer to prayer. HALLELUJAH!

In addition to his parents, three brothers preceded Thomas in death, Robert Bass, Charles Bass and Junius Griffin.

Thomas leaves to cherish his memory, one son, Terry Bass; two daughters, Sarah Bass and Donna Hobbs (Jimmy); his loving companion of many years, Lenora Johnson; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; best friend, Donald Hudson, and a host of other relatives and friends.

We will miss you "Sam"!

**Memorial Service**

**Instrumental Selection** ..... Brian Lenair

**Invocation** ..... Elder Robert Matthews

**Praise & Worship** ..... Minister Rhonda Belt

**Scripture Reading:**

**Old Testament** - Minister Joseph Mitchell

**New Testament** - Minister Shirley Wilkins

**Solo** ..... Minister Bernard Lewis

**Prayer of Comfort** ..... Elder Peyton Gray

**Dance Tribute** ..... Danielle Hobbs and Christine Booker

**Remarks:**

Simone Hudson (on behalf of Donald Hudson)

Chief Joseph Hardy, President, Maryland State Air Force Association  
Representative, East Coast Tuskegee Airmen - Air Force Association &  
The Tuskegee Airmen

Elder Kevin Matthews, Evangel Cathedral (on behalf of Bishop Don Meares &  
the Ministerial Staff)

**Acknowledgements & Obituary** ..... Minister Joan Rivera

**Solo** ..... Anthony Matthews

**Eulogy** ..... Elder Willie Perrin

**Benediction** ..... Elder Kevin Matthews

**Recessional**

**Reception** ..... Immediately following the Service  
Evangel Cathedral Grand Foyer

# Memories of Thomas "Sam"



# Memories with family & friends

### **My Hero**

*My hero is a person that has been through a lot but doesn't give up is my granddaddy Thomas Bass Jr. My granddaddy is a helpful and caring person, a hard worker and strong and also brave.*

*Granddaddy has been a light in so many people's eyes including my family. He helped us find better schools; help out by coming to career day with his organization "Tuskegee Airman". He speaks to a lot of youth in the county.*

*He has always supported me and my sister with dance school. He comes to our performances and always asks is there anything we need. He also comes and gets us when my parents just need a break.*

*A couple of months ago, when he came out the hospital, he was still a little weak he couldn't do things that he wanted to do but he didn't complain or get finicky or angry he just got through it. He always helps others with their needs. He's always there for his family.*

*He has had cancer for a long time but he keeps going strong, when he got out of the hospital he could have just stayed home in bed, but he got up and started slowly getting back into the way he does things. He could be complaining and be an egotistical person thinking only of himself but instead he gave his heart to help other people before him-self, that is called a hero to me.*

*Granddaddy enamors his family with attention and love. In the story "The Diary Of Anne Frank" it says that her mother and her prayed together in the annex. We pray for granddaddy and God has kept him here for a long time and I am glad I got a chance to know him.*

*That's why my granddaddy Thomas Bass Jr. is my HERO!!!!*

*Danielle Hobbs*

*Wrote in 2010, for a Language Arts Class*





### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to Evangel Cathedral, East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Air Force Association and Hospice of Chesapeake for all of their support and encouragement. We also wish to thank all of you who extended expressions of love and for helping us to honor our Dad, Thomas "Sam" Bass, Jr.*

### **INTERMENT – Date Be Determined**

*Arlington National Cemetery  
Memorial Drive  
Fort Myer, VA 22211*

### **DONATIONS BE MADE TO:**

*Air Force Association  
1501 Lee Highway  
Arlington, VA 22209  
in support of the Aerospace Education  
Scholarship Fund for Maryland Science,  
Technology, Engineering and Math*

