



## Rev. Thomas D. Walker, Sr.

November 22, 1941 - November 8, 2020

Rev. Thomas D. Walker, Sr. (78) of Atlanta, Georgia passed Sunday, November 08, 2020. Memorial Service (INVITATION ONLY) will be held 11:00 AM on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at our South Dekalb Chapel 4347 Flat Shoals Parkway Decatur, Georgia 30034. Interment: Hillandale Memorial Gardens 6201 Hillandale Dr, Lithonia, GA 30058.

### \*\*\*OBITUARY\*\*\*

Thomas D. Walker, Sr.

Thomas D. Walker founded T.D. WALKER Enterprises, Inc. in January 1998 after serving two years as Manager of Glenwood Lanes bowling center in Decatur. He joined Glenwood as league coordinator in October 1996 shortly after retiring from Chevron Corporation. During his 23 years of service with Chevron, Mr. Walker held positions in California as the Company's Public Affairs representative to Pacific Pipeline System, Inc., Manager of Constituent Relations on the Federal Relations and Communications & Programs staffs in San Francisco; and, Public Affairs Manager in Los Angeles.

Mr. Walker began his career with Chevron as News Representative on the Gulf Corporation staff in June 1973. He was named Supervisor - Technical Information in February 1974 and in September, Public Affairs Representative for Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma based in Houston. He returned to Pittsburgh in September 1975 as Manager-Public Communications and, in 1979 relocated to Atlanta, GA as Regional Public Affairs Representative and Area Director.

A native of Brownsville, PA, Mr. Walker held a variety of public information positions with the U.S. Army, including five and one-half years as Chief - Internal Communications and Editor of a monthly news magazine for the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance at Fort Bragg, NC. He completed public affairs and management courses conducted by the Defense Information School, New York University, the American Management Association, the University of Chicago, the Gulf Management Institute, DeKalb County (GA) Community College and the Chevron Leadership Development Program

Mr. Walker has served as a guest lecturer at the Defense Information School in Indianapolis, IN; San Jose (CA) State University; the Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh; and the Schools of Business and Journalism at Florida A&M University.

From 1981 to 1992, Mr. Walker chaired the National Conference of Black Mayors Energy & Environment Committee. In addition, he served on the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Corporate Roundtable; as a facilitator and moderator of the Energy Braintrust for the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend; on the Executive Committee of the Florida A&M University/Industry Cluster, as a member of the National Technical Advisory Committee for Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.; as President and Southeast Regional Coordinator of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy; and, as Vice Chairman of the Board for the APEX, a Black history museum in Atlanta, GA; and as Director of the Voter Education Project and Executive Director of the NAACP in Hoke County, NC.

Among his awards are: six Copy Desks Awards for Journalism Excellence; three Continental Army Command Awards, "The 1982 Black Achievers in Industry" Award from the Harlem Branch of the YMCA; the Triple Service and Meritorious Achievement Awards from Florida A&M University, the Key to the City of Eatonville, FL; the President's Awards of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators and the National Conference of Black Mayors; and the Roy E. Kohler Award from the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.

Mr. Walker was ordained as Baptist minister in July 1966 by the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC and subsequently pastored the Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Raeford, NC for 5 years. Mr. Walker also served as Assistant Pastor of Community Baptist Church in Bay Point, CA and is currently an associate minister of the Greenforest Community Baptist Church in Decatur, GA

Mr. Walker is married to the former Ms. Beverly K. Upshaw of Chattanooga, TN. They have four children: Michael (deceased), Cheryl, Thomas Jr. and Tyrone (deceased); and ten grandchildren: Greg, Jamieson, Jonathon, Jazmyn, Alexandria, Justin and Michael, Ashley, Yohannes and Olivia.

# Cemetery

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## Hillandale Memorial Gardens

6201 Hillandale Drive  
Lithonia, GA, 30058

# Events

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**NOV 12 Memorial Service (INVITATION ONLY) - Live 11:00AM Streamed**

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Gregory B. B Levett and Sons - South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy., Decatur, GA, US, 30034

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.** - November 12, 2020 at 10:04 AM

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“ Rev. Walker was a very dedicated Sunday School Teacher [(Trailblazer's Class) among other assignments] at Greenforest Community Baptist Church for many years. He and his lovely wife (Beverly) provided such outstanding leadership over the years. We did memorable activities together--sometimes at their house and the house of various members - eating, playing games, laughing, singing Christmas carols that he played on the piano and just a wonderful time by all. We were spiritually fed and and had lots of fun in the name of Jesus. Thank God for you Rev. Walker and your family. Gone but never forgotten! Love, Peace and Blessings. Ann Brown

**Ann Brown** - November 29, 2020 at 09:03 PM

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“ I love the picture attached to this obituary. That smiling face is exactly how I remember Rev. Walker. May God bless his legacy and the family he leaves behind.

**Richard Coleman** - November 17, 2020 at 02:28 AM

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“ To the family of Rev. Thomas Walker. We have nothing but praise for the life of Rev Walker. He interacted with our family in so many ways, from visiting my mother in the hospital to baptizing our son. He was a true definition of Christian. His life was a testimony of a good and faithful servant. We will miss him.  
The Partee family

**William Partee** - November 16, 2020 at 12:51 PM

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“ My sincere condolences go out to the Thomas Walker, Sr. family. Praying God's grace and mercy will help you endure during this time of sorrow in your life. I will forever cherish the fond memories of this amazing family. Sincerely, Irish Pickett, P. O. Box 794, Raeford, NC. A member of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Raeford, NC.,28376

**Irish Pickett** - November 12, 2020 at 03:40 PM

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“ I am his niece, Carole, daughter of his late sister Louise. Uncle Tommy married my husband and I back in 1978. He will be greatly missed and loved eternally. Melvin and Carole Hall, from Monessen PA.

**Carole Hall** - November 12, 2020 at 12:11 PM

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“ From his S.A.S.S.Y family, we will miss Mr. Walker. There was nothing he would not do for the organization or the persons it serves. He let the organization literally take over his bowling alley every Monday at 5:00 pm at Suburban Lanes. Always a smile, always a yes, always love! It is so hard to say Good-bye! S.A.S.S.Y thanks you for always being there for us.

**SASSY** - November 12, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ Rip

**Domonique Benefield from sassy** - November 12, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ I never knew Rev. Walker's rich life story. I did know of his love and devotion to our S.A.S.S.Y. members. Rest in Heaven...rest now.

**Crystal** - November 14, 2020 at 12:18 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to the family of one of the nicest people to have as a boss. Tom was a gentle man who thought of others and made sure that everyone working for him did the same. He and his wife were friends which I am sorry to say I lost touch. My prayers go out to his family.

**Teena Scott** - November 12, 2020 at 11:41 AM

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“ My condolences and deepest sympathy for the Walker family. I remember Reverend Walker as a person who cared for others, especially young people. He was an inspiration to me. W.T.(Doby) McAllister, Jr.

W.T.(Doby) McAllister, Jr - November 12, 2020 at 11:15 AM

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“ Condolences to the Family of Tom Walker Sr. He owned Suburban Lanes and made it a fun place to congregate. I had the privilege of working with him for 18 years. My prayer is for the rest of the Family to remember and cherish all the good times you shared. Kathy and I will keep you in our prayers. Blak Carlton.

Blake Carlton - November 12, 2020 at 11:04 AM

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“ Our most sincere condolences to the Thomas Walker Sr. family. He will be missed by us all. He lead a wonderful faith purpose lifestyle. I will miss talking with him on a regular basis to share our common health issues, politics, and religion. Thankfully, I had the opportunity to talk with you during the last few weeks. I only wish I could be with you in your last days to hear your voi, see your infectious smile and tell you "I love you". You now have gone from labor to reward, now take your seat and rest in heavenly peace.

Love eternally,  
Kenneth, Mary, and Carolyn Walker  
Xavier Davis

kenneth Walker - November 12, 2020 at 10:29 AM

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“ My sincerst condolences to the Walker Family. I was always cherish the moments we shared at Glenwood and Surburban Lanes in Decatur. As an avid bowler myself, we partnered together to compete in some local tournaments. His love of God and winning spirit were inspirational to me. I pray that the memories that you shared sustain you in the days ahead. May God continue to bless and keep of you.

Brenda Adams - November 12, 2020 at 02:39 AM

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“ To the Walker Family: Rev. Walker and I took the Spiritual Gift class together and we connected as followers of Jesus Christ. I will miss his gentleness and his style of teaching and encouraging others. My prayers are with the family.

**Sister B.J. Smith** - November 11, 2020 at 10:56 PM

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“ Brother Bob purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rev. Thomas D. Walker, Sr..



**Brother Bob** - November 11, 2020 at 02:08 PM

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“ Clyde Walker (brother) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rev. Thomas D. Walker, Sr..



**Clyde Walker (brother)** - November 11, 2020 at 01:02 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rev. Thomas D. Walker, Sr..



November 11, 2020 at 12:36 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Thomas D. Walker, Sr..



November 11, 2020 at 11:19 AM

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“ To the Walker family  
My husband, Keith, and Mr. Walker worked for the same company and we were both members of Greenforest Baptist Church during the 1980's. I remember him as being very friendly, personable and energetic. My sincerest condolences to the family.

**Linda C. Charity** - November 11, 2020 at 08:33 AM

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“ We are saddened to learn about your family loss. In just a little while all of the pain and sorrow that we feel from the death of our love ones will cease and be replaced with joy, because the former things have passed away.

**Evans family** - November 11, 2020 at 04:33 AM

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“ I remember spending my summer with Godparents.. Dad would always be watching Baseball !!! I guess that's why I like baseball 🤔 God rest his soul!!! Now my Godparents are back together!!!

**Eboni McAllister** - November 09, 2020 at 06:11 PM