



## Mrs. Rosie Leen Thornton

September 15, 1943 - January 16, 2017

Rosie Leen Thornton was born September 15, 1943 to Dave and Frances Russell in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Rosie received her formal education in Clarksdale, Mississippi. She met and married John Henry Thornton Sr. in Vicksburg, Mississippi. After becoming a widow Rosie explored living in several states. Rosie finally settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1977, where he met her common law husband of 31 years, Famous Lee Burks . Rosie worked in the nursing field in Gary, Indiana and Milwaukee. he thoroughly enjoyed being a caregiver. Rosie accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age; her faith in God kept her for 73 years.

Rosie was a loving and compassionate woman who enjoyed being around her family and friends. Rosie had an infectious laugh and loved to talk. In 1991, Rosie suffered a stroke which significantly affected her mobility and ability to verbally communicate. Although her ability to speak long sentences was affected, Rosie still had many short and funny sayings to communicate what she meant like: "Right Here!", "And I Mean it!", "Party! Party! Party!" and her favorite, "You Know!" Rosie enjoyed cooking, listening to music, attending and volunteering at church, playing cards, fishing, entertaining family and watching TV.

Rosie Leen Thornton departed this life on Monday, January 16, 2017. She was preceded in death by both biological parents, Dave and

Frances Russell; an aunt that raised her, Alice Pat; husband, John Henry Thornton Sr.; common law husband, Famous Lee Burks; one sister, Molly Jones; and one granddaughter, Amber Renee Murrell. Rosie was the proud mother of five biological children, Francis Russell, John Henry (Lantona) Thornton Jr., Carlos (Tina) Thornton, Akella Kency, and Ronda Thornton all of Milwaukee, WI; four stepchildren, Kenyatta Allen of Martin , Sonya (Anthony) Berry of Memphis TN, Kevin Burks of Memphi TN, and Larry Smith of Memphis, TN; and many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.  
Milwaukee, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Cross Lutheran Church  
1821 N. 16th Street  
Milwaukee, WI

## Service

JAN 24. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Milwaukee, WI