



# Sammy Powell Thomas

SEP 12, 1932 - AUG 21, 2024



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# Sammy Powell Thomas

SEP 12, 1932 - AUG 21, 2024

**S**ammy P. Thomas was born on September 12, 1932, in Chiefland, Florida, the youngest of four children born to Elbert and Frances Thomas (both deceased). He was preceded in death by his siblings, Pye, Elbert Jr., and Mary Francis and beloved wife Yoshie.

At the young age of 15, following his father's passing, Sammy left school to support his family, working various jobs, including at a sawmill and as a golf caddy. His strong work ethic and determination paved the way for an impressive 30-year career in the United States Navy. Serving from 1951 to 1981, he rose to the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. Reflecting on his military career, Sammy often said, "The Navy gave me a chance to do all the things I dreamed and more."

On August 15, 1955, Sammy met the love of his life, Yoshie Mori, in Yokohama, Japan. After a beautiful courtship, they married on July 20, 1956, forming a union blessed by the Lord Himself. Sammy's military career led them to various postings, including Bremerton, WA; Quonset Point, RI; Norfolk, VA; and finally, in 1962, settling in San Diego, CA.

Sammy was called home to join his beloved Yoshie on August 21, 2024. She preceded him in death in 2015. He is survived by his three children: Desiree Kay Thomas of San Diego, Ronald Thomas of Las Vegas, and Francina Thomas-Dickson (Jeremy) of Sacramento; eight grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and loving friends.

Known for his philanthropic spirit, Sammy generously gave to various organizations throughout his life. Sammy was proud of his service in the Navy and enjoyed the fellowship of his shipmates as he toured the nation attending many U.S.S. Canberra reunions. He also had a passion for Padres baseball, loved watching sports, enjoyed discussing politics, and was an avid student of history.



## Obituary

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Raised in a Christian family, Sammy's faith was a cornerstone of his life. He was a dedicated member of Bethel AME Church. Sammy's personal account of his life states "When Christ is our center, we are empowered to make decisions based on what is right for that true self. It is not necessarily what is right for anyone else, so we can stand firm, balanced, and centered, ready to face the challenges of our lives."

Sammy lived a life full of love, service, and faith, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, strength, and unwavering devotion to his family, his community, and his Lord. He will be dearly missed.



# Events

**Sammy Powell Thomas**

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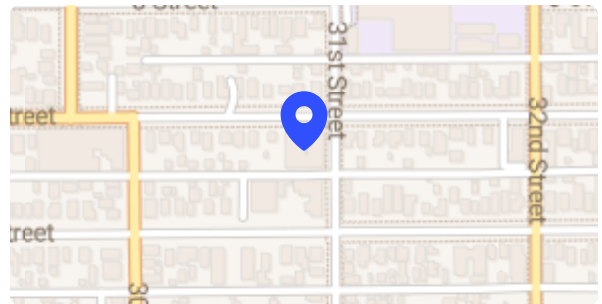
## FUNERAL SERVICE

**Thursday**, September 19, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM PT

**Bethel AME Church**  
3085 K Street, San Diego CA 92102

10-11am Viewing 11-12:30pm Service



## Committal Service

**Thursday**, September 19, 2024

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM PT

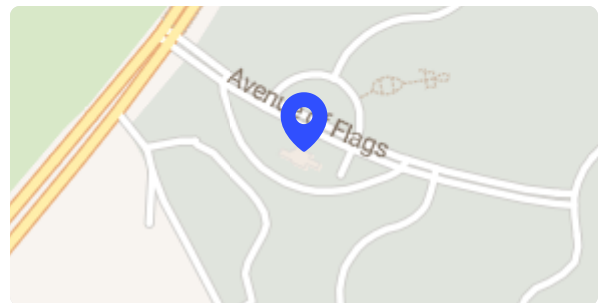
**Miramar National Cemetery**  
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego CA 92121



## Cemetery Details

**Miramar National Cemetery**  
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego CA 92121

**858-658-7360**





# Tribute Wall

**Sammy Powell Thomas**

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**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Thomas family.

September 15 at 4:02 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Thomas family.

September 12 at 3:20 PM



**Cheryl Guillory Atooli** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Sammy.

September 12 at 3:20 PM



**Kazuo With Mori Family From Japan** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Thomas family.

September 11 at 1:21 AM



**Your Friends At Uw Health** sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Thomas family.

September 9 at 8:04 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sammy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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