



Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton

September 15, 1960 - November 13, 2025

UTICA – Mrs. Regina “Gina” (Ashley) Thornton, 65, entered into eternal rest on November 13, 2025. She was born on September 15, 1960 in Troy, NY to the union of Glennys (McCoy) Ashley and the late Bishop Calvin Ashley, Jr.

Regina graduated from Utica Free Academy then entered the medical field receiving her LPN through B.O.C.E.S. with over 15 years working for Heritage Home (The Grand). Although Regina faced many health challenges, she obtained her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Healthcare Administrations through Grand Canyon University (with honors). Along with her many accomplishments Regina was ordained as a pastor in the Greater Highway Church of Utica, where she served faithfully.

Regina married Gary W. Thornton in June of 1983. Out of their union came the blessing of six beautiful children.

Regina’s life, service, and devotion have left an indelible mark on all who knew her. We honor her legacy, her faithfulness, and the love she poured into her church, her family, and everyone she encountered.

Regina was preceded in death by her father, Bishop Calvin Ashley, Jr.; sister Loretta (Gandy) Ashley; and brother, Ricky Ashley.

Regina leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Gary W. Thornton of Utica; and her six children and their partners: Terrence and Tiffany Thornton of San Antonio, TX; Yaron Israel “Gary” and Apolonia Thornton of NJ; William Thornton and Latiqua Darby of Utica; Candace Thornton and Andre Grace of Utica; Justin Thornton and Cherrelle Glover of Utica; and Jerel Thornton of Syracuse, NY. She is also survived by her mother, Glennys Ashley of Utica; her sisters, Fay Ashley and Bernard Harris of Smyrna, GA, and Christina Ashley of NC; and her brothers, Anthony and Leslie Ashley of MD, and James Ashley of NY. In addition, she is remembered with love by several bonus siblings whom her parents fostered—you know who you are; much love to you all.

She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Christopher Thornton, Amia Thornton, Jayden Thornton, Jayden Bush, Terrence Thornton Jr., Yair Israel, Anthony Thornton, Gianna Thornton, Alaya Israel, Yadyah Israel, Mckyenze Thornton, and a granddaughter Thornton on the way. Regina is further survived by her nieces and nephews: Iyanna Ashley, Kevin and Annakay Ashley, Calvin Ashley, Joseph and Denise Sonkwa, Andrew Ashley, Victoria Ashley, and Alexander Ashley; and her great-nieces and great-nephews: Kyndall, Kali, Aiden, Amabelle, Ashton, Chance, and Kaysen. She also leaves her godchildren, Regina Brown, and Ajahlai Smith, as well as many beloved extended family members and friends.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Gina and the staff of Nascentia Health, Cardiology/Transplant Team of Strongs Memorial Hospital, Rochester, NY, for their years of care and compassion.

Visitation will be held on Friday, November 21, 2025, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Those unable to attend may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81729491858>. Memorial contributions in Regina’s honor may be made to

Greater Highway Deliverance Temple by mail to 1705 Whitesboro St., Utica, NY 13501; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Regina's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Believer's Miracle Deliverance Ministries, Inc., 207 Eagle St. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

This tribute to Regina's life has been lovingly written by her family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Home Going Service

NOV **22**. 9:00 AM (ET)

Believers Miracle Deliverance Ministries, Inc.
207 Eagle Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

DK

“ Dear Chef and Miss Glynnys so sorry about Reginal know she fought hard may she rest in peace always Darlene Trombetta King

Darlene Trombetta King - November 25, 2025 at 05:50 PM

TM

“ Sending my heartfelt condolences to the family of my classmate Regina. 🙏🙏

Tarita G. Mills - November 21, 2025 at 12:20 PM

BF

“ Bob & Kris Paul, Hollie Vanderstouw- FOL purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.



Bob & Kris Paul, Hollie Vanderstouw- FOL - November 21, 2025 at 12:04 PM

LF

“ Lisa (kbp Foods) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.



Lisa (kbp Foods) - November 20, 2025 at 09:04 PM

DB

“ Darlene Branch lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton



Darlene Branch - November 20, 2025 at 11:10 AM

MB

Condolences to the Thornton and Ashley family, May God give you strength in this time of sorrow, Deacon and Sister Brooks.

Marguerite Brooks - November 21, 2025 at 01:50 PM

YT

“ Your Xylem Family in Texas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.

Your Xylem Family in Texas - November 20, 2025 at 10:46 AM

YT

“ Your Xylem Family in Texas purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.



Your Xylem Family in Texas - November 20, 2025 at 10:46 AM

SC

“ Samaritan Counseling Center planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.

Samaritan Counseling Center - November 19, 2025 at 12:54 PM

SC

“ Samaritan Counseling Center purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.



Samaritan Counseling Center - November 19, 2025 at 12:54 PM

LG

“ Love, your cousins - THE GANDY'S purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.



Love, your cousins - THE GANDY'S - November 19, 2025 at 11:24 AM

JD

“ My deepest condolences to the Thornton family on your loss. I had the privilege of teaching Terrance, Gary, and Candace at Proctor H.S. and attribute that experience in part to their mother, Gina. May her memory be blessed eternal. Jim Delitto

Jim Delitto - November 19, 2025 at 08:59 AM

RB

“ To my cousin Regina you have fought a good fight you have kept the faith now it's time to take your rest love you dearly see you in the morning 🌅.

Robin Renee Barnes - November 18, 2025 at 11:02 PM

SB

“ Thank you, Regina, for sharing your stories with me when we stole those moments to "talk about thangs" Testimonies are precious, strengthening, nudging is to keep walking. Put one foot in front of the other til we're old enough to help matters.

Grateful 

Rev. Sylvia (Ervin) Brown

Sylvia Brown - November 18, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to Regina’s family, I have had the pleasure of knowing her as one of her nurses with Nascentia for the past 6 years, her beautiful spirit will shine forever and I will cherish my memories and my time with her, I will certainly miss her dearly. With love and prayers, Samantha, RN

Samantha Lee - November 18, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.



November 18, 2025 at 05:57 PM

TR

“ My prayers and thoughts to the Thornton and Ashley family!! Regina was one of kind. Singing and choir directing somebody. I shall never forget those choir days. So many fond memories from my childhood and teenage days. May she rest in peace in the arms of the Savior. With love,
Telecia Bell-Rann Charlotte NC

Telecia Rann - November 18, 2025 at 05:50 PM

EE

“ She was 6 years older than me, she went to HIGH SCHOOL with my AUNTS COUSINS AT UFA, we dealt with each other as me being the MUSICAN/ORGANIST, started in the 70’s, doing the work of the LORD TOGETHER, I’m going to miss her, RIP

Elder Robert Enoch - November 18, 2025 at 04:49 PM

PC

“ Pastor Sharon Hawkins & Congrégation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.

Pastor Sharon Hawkins & Congrégation - November 18, 2025 at 04:42 PM

PC

“ Pastor Sharon Hawkins & Congrégation purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Regina "Gina" (Ashley) Thornton.



Pastor Sharon Hawkins & Congrégation - November 18, 2025 at 04:42 PM

IA

“ I extend my love to each family member. My heart truly feels this in your challenging time. May The MOST HIGH grant comfort, support, stability on every level. I have so many memories though distance my love has never faded. Always in my prayers forever.💔

Ilesha Alpheaus - November 18, 2025 at 04:40 PM

AB

Praying for the family no the family a long time she will be missed with that voice god bless

Annie mae brooks - November 19, 2025 at 10:14 AM

MM

Praying that the family finds comfort in the sweet memories of a life well-loved. We lift you up in sympathy and friendship!!

Marjorie Machado - November 19, 2025 at 11:51 AM

EM

Gina! Anointed, gifted, choir director, singer, prayer "WARRIOR" prophetess, counselor, teacher, consistent "True FRIEND" although you will be missed, my heart rejoices for your PEACE. You will always be remembered for your HEART'S PRAYER & WARM EMBRACE". Rest easy. Until we meet again, I will walk as we have shared. To the family, my prayers are with you.

Evangelist EY Mason - November 19, 2025 at 02:05 PM