



## Clarece Purcell Thame

January 12, 1952 - September 27, 2025

Clarece P. Thame, 73, of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away peacefully on September 27, 2025. The youngest of Leona and Eugene Walker, Sr.'s five children, "Rece", as they called her, accepted Christ into her life at a young age at Salem Baptist Church in her hometown of Greensboro, Alabama.

Clarece's mischievous streak--something she never lost--made her bold and brave and built for good trouble. As a young teenager, she was arrested while demonstrating for Civil Rights. She was one of the first to integrate the high school in her hometown, endured harassment, and still graduated with honors in 1970. After a stint at the University of Alabama, she transferred to the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she graduated with a degree in accounting.

In 1978, she married Barrington Thame and welcomed their daughter, Jennifer. Less than two years later, Barrington passed away.

Her career included working for NASA, the Advanced Television Test Center (ATTC), and Panasonic Corporation. While at ATTC, she was part of a small team which developed the standards for HD television in the United States. The ATTC team won the 2008 Emmy Award for Technology and Engineering for their contribution to the standardization of the ATSC Digital System.

Clarece's eyes glistened like stars from the night sky when she laughed and when she was up to no good, a trait she shares with her four siblings, with whom she spoke on a group call every Saturday morning. Clarece and her oldest sister were notorious for cheating at baby shower games. When she had a good hand and a good partner in Spades or Hearts, she could barely suppress her glee.

One of her family's greatest puzzlements was how she could rewatch the same episodes of NCIS but still be surprised by whodunit. She couldn't carry a tune to save her life, but she knew the lyrics to every song at church and otherwise. And she loved to dance!

Clarece enjoyed traveling, especially to spend Thanksgiving with family. Some of her favorite trips were to Australia, Brazil, San Francisco, helicoptering over the Grand Canyon, and cruising the Caribbean.

In the D.C. area, Clarece found family in the form of countless friends who she loved like sisters and brothers. She embraced Jen's friends as her own children, and when Jen brought Eric around, she gained a son and loved him to the moon and back. But everyone else got swept into second place when her grandchildren, London and David came along. She had no greater joy than being their Yami (Grandma). Faith grounded Clarece. She was a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., before joining Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA.

Clarece was predeceased by her loving husband, Barrington R. Thame (1980). She's survived by her beloved daughter, Jennifer Steiner (Eric) of Alexandria, VA, and her favorite two people, granddaughter London and grandson David; along with her siblings Marjorie Bowens of Clarkston, MI, Mary Fuqua of Detroit, MI, Azalene Johnson (Lonnie) of Louisville, KY, and Eugene Walker, Jr. of Greensboro, AL; and a host of nieces and nephews,

close relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the following:

Virginia 529 Education Savings Account for London: <https://www.invest529.com/account-management/give-a-gift/> Gift ID: R5A6GCZ

Virginia 529 Education Savings Account for David: <https://www.invest529.com/account-management/give-a-gift/> Gift ID: Z6T40NM

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Alfred Street Baptist Church  
301 S. Alfred Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
<http://www.alfredstreet.org>

*Guests are invited to wear bright colors*

## Celebration of Life

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Alfred Street Baptist Church  
301 S. Alfred Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
<http://www.alfredstreet.org>

*Guests are invited to wear bright colors*

# Tribute Wall

MI

“ Tia Clarece, I have so many wonderful memories of you. I can't think of a time in my life that you weren't there. I don't have any biological aunts or uncles on my mother's side of the family, but you were like the best aunt in the world to my sister and I. Your love extended out to our children as well. I was always amazed at how you never forgot a birthday, and you were always my favorite person to see at each gathering with family and friends. When I think of you, all I see is your beautiful smile. And I find myself thinking about you quite often. I know that God called you home as you are one of his angels, and so I thank the Lord for sharing you with us. I love and miss you so much.

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**Mikia** - February 11 at 10:15 AM

RB

“ It's Mrs. Clarice and the family. My most heartfelt condolences you are deeply missed. You are deeply loved and your flower bed will always be a safe space for me. Love you with all my heart.

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**Renee Bryant** - October 25, 2025 at 11:50 AM

H1

“ To the Daughter, Grandchildren, and Family; our prayers and sympathy are with you through this time & difficult loss. The HCTS - Class of 1964, Greensboro, Alabama.

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**HCTS Class of 1964** - October 22, 2025 at 03:19 PM

SB

“ Rest peacefully dear cousin. You will always be remembered with love.  
Shelia Walker Bates & Family

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**Shelia Walker Bates** - October 20, 2025 at 06:02 PM

BC

“ Heartfelt condolences to Jennifer and her family. I remember your mom's smile, kindness and care she always expressed when we were teenagers. She had a beautiful spirit and always made feel welcomed. I lift you up in prayer my friend.

Beckie Comfort - October 18, 2025 at 11:42 AM

LW

“ I never will forget the first time meeting you at TJHSS&T (way back when the school was full of misfits like me, Jen, and Rufus)! Your memory will last forever...so we will not say goodbye, rather "see you soon."

-Les Williams

Les Williams - October 06, 2025 at 05:46 PM



Great memories, thank you for sharing her with us then and now. I'll never forget how she watched me, and wouldn't let me go home after bounding and eventually falling being hit by a hurdle (drawing blood no less) during college break 🥺.

Crystal Hamlin-Tramack - October 06, 2025 at 10:21 PM

WH

Her love for you was real, I remember the first day I met her, Crystal was running on the track at Mt. Vernon where a girl was running in the lane next to Crystal elbowing my child to tears, but no one saw it. As I followed Crystal in the bathroom with her eyes full of tears, Clarice walked in behind us, she spoke to me, I immediately felt a sense of calming. It was something about the love she carried for children. I found her to be the sweetest person ever. We could use more people like her in this world. God bless the family, you will always be in my prayers. If you ever need me I'm always here, just as I know she would be for Crystal. 🥺🥺

Wanda Hamlin - October 06, 2025 at 10:58 PM

DS

*(Rece) was my best friend. I loved her and I knew she love me. I met Rece years and years ago in Greensboro, Alabama in the sixth grade at the Hale County Training School. Yes! Rece and I were born to our parents 29 days apart. Growing up in school we ran track together, and ofcourse we danced a lot. My most memorable time with Rece was when my first child was born my son. I needed a friend and Rece became just that my friend and dear sweet Sister for life. Jen you are the love of her life. Her two grandchildren became her life. She often spoke of how proud she was that God had chosen her to be their Yami. I'll miss our talks, and her visit s to Greensboro. I will bless the Lord always and his praise shall continue to be in my mouth and ❤️ for the relationship he allowed Rece and I to have together. Love Forever, Your forever Sister in Christ. Dianne Harris Stevens-Battle Greensboro, Alabama*

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**Dianne Harris Stevens-Battle** - October 07, 2025 at 09:18 AM

MA

*Someone said about Clarese " to know her is to love her". This is true for me. She was a friend of a friend when we met over 30 years ago. I loved her then and now. She left a beautiful legacy.*

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**marilyn ababio** - October 13, 2025 at 06:03 AM