



# Willie Ralph Thomas

JAN 14, 1937 - APR 24, 2025



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# Willie Ralph Thomas

JAN 14, 1937 - APR 24, 2025

**W**illie Ralph Thomas, age 88, a longtime resident of Troy and Madison Heights, Michigan passed away on April 24, 2025 at his home. He was born on January 14, 1937 in Marietta, Georgia.

Dear Father of Michael (Meredith) Thomas and Lisa (Chris) Samartino. Grandfather of Giovanni and Valentino Samartino. He is predeceased by his former wife, Jenny (nee Fattome) Thomas.

Prior to retirement, he worked as a project engineer at General Motors, working out of Pontiac, Michigan, in the truck and bus division. That included the transition to robotics on the assembly line and plant management, having started out as an electrician.

Willie had a profound love for music, often enjoying the festive sounds of "Charlie Brown Christmas" by the Vince Guaraldi Trio during the holidays, as well as other jazz musicians and the prolific songwriter, Willie Nelson. He frequently traveled to jazz festivals across the country to connect with fellow enthusiasts and create lasting memories. A diligent learner, Willie taught himself electronic engineering and carpentry, always eager to expand his knowledge and skills. He dedicated much of his life to securing a bright future for his children, instilling in them the importance of financial literacy and essential life skills. His teachings and guidance equipped them with the tools needed to navigate the world with confidence and resilience. Willie will be remembered not only for his love of music but also for his impressive work ethic and sense of humor.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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