



## Nathaniel Thomas

February 22, 1929 - December 30, 2021

Nathaniel Thomas was born in a little house off of route 49 in Millville, New Jersey on February 22, 1929. He departed this life on December 30, 2021. He was affectionately known as Nat/Nate by family and friends. He was the son of Elease Thomas and William Edward Benton Sr. Nathaniel attended Paterson public schools. In addition, he attended Lincoln Technical Institute where he received a certificate of completion of automotive technology.

After attending high school Nathaniel served his country domestically and overseas in Korea. In the army, he learned the trade of welding, which he continued in his civilian life. He was honorably discharged in 1953. He worked as a welder at the Bridgeton Iron Foundry and also at Air Work Corporation in Millville NJ for thirty-three years.

In addition, Nathaniel actively served as a volunteer fireman at the Gouldtown Fire Company No. 2 from 1962 to 1982. Nathaniel holds the honor of a lifetime membership of 59 years at the fire company. Family and friends will remember the picnics across the street from the firehouse at Nathaniel and Elease's home that were held for many years. He was loved and embraced by many. In fact, around the Gouldtown area, Nathaniel was considered the "Mayor" because of his helpful, comical and friendly manner. Good food was one of his loves. He also enjoyed having yard sales where many of his friends and family were always in attendance. Nathaniel spent much of his time with his friends, most of which, he truly considered family, like Rose and Josh Burton. Eli "Putt" Webster is one of Nathaniel's favorite people in the world. Putt made his later years a lot sunnier.

In the 1950s, Nathaniel enjoyed riding as a member of The Iron Horsemen motorcycle club of Paterson, NJ. In addition, he was a member of the Yellow Jackets motorcycle club of Gouldtown, NJ where in addition to riding, he participated with members of the bike club in activities that benefited the community.

Nathaniel attended Trinity AME Church in Gouldtown, NJ.

Nathaniel married Elaine Burger-Thomas- Foubister and later married Mildred Thomas-Taylor.

He was preceded in death by his loving mother, Elease Thomas Sistrunk, his son, Nathaniel Thomas Jr., his brothers, John Thomas and William Edward Benton Jr., his sister, Elizabeth Frizby, and his granddaughter, Jasmin Butterfly Thomas.

Nathaniel is survived by his children; Shirley Broomes of Georgia, Jacqueline Thomas of Georgia, Sabrina Maine of Georgia, Anthony Thomas of Millville, NJ and Etoy Thomas of Millville, NJ., in addition to 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

A special note:

Nathaniel's daughter, Sabrina Thomas Maine, passed away the morning of January 12, 2022.

He and Sabrina have gone on to be with the Lord. They will be missed.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Gouldtown Memorial Park Cemetery**

Route 49 & Route 553

Bridgeton, NJ,

**JAN**

**14**

**Visitation**

10:30AM - 12:00PM

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Sray Webster Funeral Home

62 Landis Ave, Bridgeton, NJ, US, 08302

# Comments

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“ I am a nurse that had the absolute pleasure of knowing Mr. Nate while he was on dialysis. He always had a smile on his face and words of wisdom for all those he spoke with. I will miss him!



**Megan** - January 19 at 02:09 AM

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“ So very sorry for your loss. I wasn't feeling well enough to attend, but your family is in my thoughts and prayers. What a sweet man he was . Dorothy--GVFC



**Dorothy Becker-Garrison** - January 15 at 08:40 AM

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“ Vita lit a candle in memory of Nathaniel Thomas



**Vita** - January 14 at 07:08 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Vita** - January 14 at 07:05 PM



“ Cousin Nat, Mom (Lucille) and Cousin Mildred.

**Vita** - January 14 at 07:07 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Cousin Vita** - January 14 at 12:59 PM



“ Cousin Nat at mom's (Lucille) home. I enjoyed when family would get together for the Christmas holiday. Cousin Nat would bring his mother Cousin Elease, Etoy, Anthony and his family would all be there to join Tina, Brytt, Lenton Jr. and I (with our families). There was always great food and singing. We love you cousin Nat. Cousin Vita

**Vita Williams** - January 14 at 01:13 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Shirley & Bernard Broomes** - January 14 at 11:46 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Shirley & Bernard Broomes** - January 14 at 11:42 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Shirley & Bernard Broomes** - January 14 at 11:40 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Shirley & Bernard Broomes** - January 14 at 11:39 AM



“ I will miss you pop pop and so will your great grandkids. Until we meet again young man. May God bless you and heal the family's pain.

**Shannon Thomas** - January 14 at 02:05 PM

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“ To the Thomas Family my condolences to you. Cousin Nat was my second cousin. My father William Rivers was his mother Elease and Della first cousin. I will always remember traveling down to see him and Cousin Lucille when they had our annual family reunion. Cousin Nat had a no care personality. He enjoyed life to the fullest. That is why so many people loved him. He will always be in my heart. Love you Cousin Nat.

Mildred Rivers and family.

**Mildred Rivers** - January 14 at 10:37 AM

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“ Mr. Thomas ... AKA Poppa Nate was so sweet. He always had the biggest smile and warm greeting whenever and wherever you saw him. He was notorious for sending messages thru common acquaintances if he hadn't seen you in a while. My fondest memories of him are thru his participation in many of the social events that John Wesley on Baltimore Ave in Bridgeton hosted ... especially when he blessed the guests with his hula dance ... grass skirt and ALL... or when I would be a guest at Trinity. His love of living life is an inspiration. My cousin JoAnne said it best, driving past his house on Rt #49 will NEVER be the same.

**Karen E Barnett** - January 14 at 10:16 AM

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“ To the family of Nat. I truly want to express my condolences and prayers on the loss of a very special man. He called me 'cousin' and called my mother 'Aunt Annie'.. He always stepped up when asked...if I ever needed any help to set up for an activity at the church, he was there. When I retired and called myself taking a morning walk down 49, my walk became short, because I started stopping in to see him. If I ever start walking again, it won't be the same. My 'cousin' will be missed.

**Jo Ann Thompson-Street** - January 14 at 09:17 AM

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“ Wayne and I wish to express our deepest condolences to the Thomas Family, regarding the passing of your father and sister, Sabrina. I pray our families broken chain will be held together by the sharing of warm remembrances, such as the one below:

As my godfather, "Uncle Nat" and I shared special occasions, but also routine telephone conversations. Visits to his home as a child were a treat, since Uncle Nat had the sturdiest swing set in Gouldtown. As an adult, our visits allowed me to regularly treat him to homemade soups, fresh vegetables, peach cobbler or a jar of his favorite peanut butter. One would know "all is well" with NateThomas, whenever he shared his mischievous laugh.

He always referred to me as "goddaughter", until my father passed in June 2013. Thereafter, Uncle Nat began to refer to me as "daughter"...right before he would say "give me some sugar." Any family member of Nathaniel Thomas, affectionately knew what that phrase meant.

In this picture, Uncle Nat sat in an honorary position, across the table from my father. I celebrated all of the fathers in my life, with a cookout at our home, after the baptism of my son. (Father's Day - June 2000)

Kim Custis Hall - January 13 at 11:39 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kim Custis Hall - January 13 at 10:43 AM

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“ Nate was a friend for 60 years. Since he was godfather to my daughter he was considered part of the family and we shared our lives with him. His passing has left a hole in our family. My sincere condolences to the family on the loss of Nate and Sabrina.

I have tested positive for COVID and will not be able to attend the services.

Yvonne Custis

yvonne custis - January 13 at 09:50 AM

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“ Dear Brother Anthony, I meant your Dad during my adolescent years as he was a friend of my parents and family in Gouldtown. I got to know him as an adult during my employment at the Blind Center, he would let us use his yard for our yard sales. It was a joy to know him, he had a big smile and personality, he will truly be missed. My deepest condolences and prayers to you and your family in the passing on of your Father and Sister.



**Pamela Wynder** - January 12 at 07:49 PM

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“ The Thomas Family,

Mr. Nate was very dear to our family. He was kind and generous, he will be missed!

With Love and Sympathy,

Deborah A. Williams  
Summer L. Williams

**Deborah A. Williams** - January 12 at 03:45 PM

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“ Dear Etoy, Anthony, Shirley and Jacqueline my heartfelt condolences and prayers to you all in the passing of your father, Cousin Nat and your sister Sabrina. Cousin Nat would always stop by Mom's and check in on her. I will forever miss him and his 'hey cuz' whenever we would see each other or talk on the phone. Hugs to all.

Tina Browne Sills

**Tina Browne Sills** - January 12 at 03:42 PM