



Thomas Henry Foster Jr.

February 17, 1943 - June 20, 2021

Thomas Henry Foster, Jr., born on February 17, 1943 in Brooklyn, New York, was the third of four children of Thomas Henry Foster, Sr. and Mary Ellen (Paul) Foster. He was baptized in 1944 at Corner Stone Baptist Church. His mother and father were both very active in the church and emphasized musicianship and church activism to Tommy and his three sisters. He loved sports and his favorite activity was to go with his father to see the Brooklyn Dodgers play at Ebbets Field. Before his 8th grade year, his family moved to Queens, where he developed life-long friendships with other young men in the community. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High and went on to attend Virginia Union University where he ran track for three years and graduated with a double major in Sociology and Humanities in 1964.

His first job out of college was with the New York City Department of Welfare as a social worker and investigator. He later enrolled in law school at Howard University, and transferred programs, completing an MA in Urban Studies (Economics) and a Masters in Government and Public Administration from American University. Thom worked at the Library of Congress and was the Assistant Project Director for the District of Columbia Land Redevelopment Agency prior to his move to Colorado in 1974.

From 1974- 1979, he served as an adjunct professor and instructor at the University of Colorado, Denver, Metro State College, and several community

colleges, teaching courses in urban planning and housing, sociology, religion, and business. He also served as the Executive Director of the Five Points Community Center until 1981. At that time, he became the Vice President of B&E Enterprises (Seafood Market), and in 1986, he started his tenure as a Founder and the President of the Bruce Randolph Merchants and Civic Association. In 1993, he became the Founder and Board Chairman for the Denver Community Development Credit Union and volunteered as the Coordinator for the Denver Weed & Seed Initiative, a partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice and the City and County Denver. Thom was appointed to and volunteered for several positions including President of the Board of Trustees of the New Life Church, Regional Transportation District Citizen Advisory Committee, the Denver Planning Board, Executive Director of Street Smart, Inc., Cole Coalition Board of Directors, and Enterprise Communities Advisory Governance Board. He was extremely proud of representing the United States at the Youth Foundation for World Peace, World Culture and Sports Festival in Seoul, Korea in 1999. He also proudly served as the Vice President of the Foster-Wiley Family Reunion.

Thom was very active at the Epworth United Methodist Church serving as the Finance Chair of the Administrative Board, Family to Family Visitation Advocate, CPE Housing Board Member, Choir Member, Sunday School Teacher, CADREC Board Member and as one of the founders of the Street Smart Fatherhood Initiative.

Thom received many awards for his service including the DC Mayor's Service Award, The Denver Post's 1981 Outstanding Leaders in the Black Community, The Denver Business Journal's Who's Who in Business, The Washington Times Newspaper and Foundation National Service Award, New Life Church of Religious Science Board of Trustees Appreciation Award, Here's Love Christian Fellowship Award for Community Service, and the Service Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) Appreciation Award for Outstanding Service to

the Business Community.

Thom was preceded in death by his parents, brother-in-law Johnny Kearse, ex-wife Alana Gratts and many friends and family members. He leaves behind his three sisters; Betty Cargill Reynolds, Stella Kearse, and Rachel Franklin; children Doron, Thomas, Yasmeen (Marc) and step-daughter Michelle; grandchildren Daye, Aralese, Dejae, Xavier, D'Mareion, and Khalil; beloved extended family members Gerri, JuJu, Shon, Shantell, and Teraya; close friends Darryl, Calvin, Moses, Frenchie, King, Hugh, and David (Oggi), as well as a host of cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and friends that became like family.

~~~Acknowledgements~~~

The family of Thom Foster would like to thank the many friends and community members that sent prayers, cards, food, money, condolences, words and other forms of kindness and compassion during this time of bereavement. We would like to send a special thank you to the generosity from the Epworth United Methodist Church Family, Pastor Jeff Kanost, Pastor King Harris, Pastor Hugh Harris, Darryl Clarke, Rachel Franklin, Mariana Henderson, Norvell A. Ballard, George Nelson, and Berkley Home Health.

A copy of the full program can be found at:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AqqrtW9i0vdLg6V7Jcc32uM0Ay77IQ>

# Previous Events

## Memorial

JUN **26**. 3:00 PM (MT)

Epworth United Methodist Church  
3401 High St  
Denver, CO 80205  
(303) 296-6287

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Dionna Harding lit a candle in memory of Thomas Henry Foster Jr.*



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**Dionna Harding** - June 17, 2022 at 11:38 AM

DH

*Tom your will be greatly missed by me and my family. We love you more than you know. Thank you for showing us where we need to go for resources. Thank you for being one of my business mentors.*

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**Dionna Harding** - June 17, 2022 at 11:40 AM

“ I was just thinking about Mr. Foster. He gave me my first job. I was only about 11 or 12 years old. I spent a lot of time at the Five Points Community Center since I loved going to the public library located there. I would see Mr. Foster all the time interacting with people, being friendly and professional. I got the smart idea to ask him for a job, but I had to get through his secretary first. I would show up at his office with a big smile, greet the front desk clerk and ask if Mr. Foster is available she always said no, until one day he overheard me asking to set up a meeting with him. Looking at me with a huge smile, I was motioned back to his office. I asked Mr. Foster if he had a job I could do. I offered to mop the floors, water his plants and clean his office; son I have someone that does all those things already, he says with a smile, but I can do it better, I said. I walked out of Mr. Foster's office that day with a firm handshake and a job watering all the plants in the community center. I was not old enough to work, so he paid me \$25 a week out of his pocket. He taught me how to be accountable, how to be conscious of time, be punctual and respectful. That little \$25 was more than enough to keep my heart content with trips to my favorite arcade and plenty of penny candy. I remember when Mr. Foster opened his fish market, I would help him out from time to time, no joke to this day I can still smell the fish. He helped me get a waiver to work with the youth work programs where you had to be at least 15 years old, I was 14 then. He asked what I wanted to do in life, I shared with him that I wanted to do something in the medical field, I just didn't know what it was. Mr. Foster gave me a phone number to call that turned out to be a Pediatrician who offered me a job weighing babies, taking their measurements, and documenting all that information in logbooks. The last time I ever saw Mr. Foster was when he gave me that phone number all those years ago, but his guidance and mentorship remain with me today. Sorry, this is such a long account, but one of those lessons I learned from Mr. Foster was attention to detail. I am 52 years old, I served in the U.S. Navy, I have worked in the medical field in some capacity since the day I was hired by the Pediatrician. I have worn many hats in Navy medicine and continue to do so today, I truly believe that all of my life's successes began

*with Mr. Foster. Rest in Heavenly Peace, my Dear Sir. Thank you.  
Vondale Reynolds*

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**Vondale REynolds** - March 16, 2022 at 07:28 PM

LS

“ *Tommy and I met at Virginia Union University! I will always cherish our special relationship. He was thoughtful, kind, and enjoyed a hearty debate. He loved his family, community, and friends. ! He will surely be missed, My sincere condolences. Rest In Peace, Tommy!*  
*Letitia Hairston Shaw*

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**Letitia Hairston Shae** - June 28, 2021 at 07:00 PM

RB

“ *I remember how you fought so hard for my family to be together. I remember how you fought for my son to be able to have guitar lessons even though his foster family didn't want him to. I remember you becoming family. And now a big part of our family is gone. You meant so much to so many people. I know I will miss you immensely.*

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**Rose Brown** - June 27, 2021 at 02:25 PM

GW

“ *Mr. Thomas Foster family seek the comforting of Gods reverence. Tom was a friend to our family. He was caring and shared his time in friendship. Gerard and Sheila Weston*

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**Gerard / Sheila Weston** - June 27, 2021 at 08:31 AM

CH

“ Tom a longtime family friend who will be dearly missed. Maybe God's Peace and comfort provide strength to all his family & friends



chanda - June 26, 2021 at 09:25 AM

CH

*\*may God's*

chanda - June 26, 2021 at 09:27 AM

DG

“ imet thomas when he first moved into Thomas Bean Towers and we became friends qicklyand we had shared several good conversations. I guess my favorite memory was that my sell phone had fallen into one of his boxes when he moved in and we couldn't find it months later called and said he had my phone. it was such a short time knowing Thomas,but his friendship will always remain special. God bless all his family . Sincerely. Dee Dee Gri ffin TBT #1101

dee dee griffin - June 25, 2021 at 04:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas Henry Foster Jr..



June 24, 2021 at 04:39 PM

RM

“ *Ronald McLendon lit a candle in memory of Thomas Henry Foster Jr.*



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**Ronald McLendon** - June 24, 2021 at 04:21 PM