



Thomas Matthews, Jr.

October 7, 1990 - December 9, 2025

Thomas Lee Matthews, Jr., age 35, of Ooltewah, Tennessee, passed away on December 9, 2025. Born on October 7, 1990, in East Ridge, Tennessee, He graduated from Chattanooga for Arts and Sciences in 2009. Thomas lived a life marked by quiet strength, deep creativity, and unwavering devotion to his family. He was a loving husband to his wife, India Matthews, and a devoted father to his son, Tobias Matthews, who was truly the joy of his life. He was a provider and protector, leading his family with consistency, humility, and love.

From the very beginning, music was woven into Thomas's life. As a baby, whenever he heard music, there was always movement, a rhythm only he could feel, followed by soft humming as if the melodies lived within him. His love for music came naturally, as though it had been placed in his spirit long before he could speak.

At an early age, Thomas became a member of The House of God Church—Keith Dominion in South Pittsburg, Tennessee. His musical journey began in church at the age of seven, playing the steel guitar. He would practice for hours at a time, determined to perfect his craft. Even at such a young age, his gift was undeniable. One day, his music moved the entire church into praise, leaving a lasting impact that revealed a calling far greater than talent alone. He was anointed by God to play for God.

Over the years, Thomas became a gifted, self-taught musician who could play over ten instruments, including piano, lead guitar, and bass guitar. Though he was a quiet man by nature, Thomas spoke loudly through his music. Once you got to know him, his sense of humor and warmth shined through effortlessly. He also possessed an amazing singing voice that he would sometimes choose to keep hidden, allowing his instruments to speak instead.

For over 10 years, Thomas worked at Volkswagen Chattanooga, but his greatest passion and proudest work was music. He performed locally throughout the Chattanooga area, sharing his talent across genres such as Blues, Neo-Soul, R&B, and Hip-Hop. Each time he stepped on stage, his goal was simple yet powerful, to touch at least one heart through his music. Music was not just something he did; it was who he was. Through every note, he expressed emotion, truth, and soul in a way that words often could not.

Beyond music, Thomas enjoyed colognes and fragrances, appreciating the art of scent and self-expression in the same thoughtful way he approached his craft. As a child, he also had a deep love for baseball and was exceptionally talented, a passion that reflected his discipline, focus, and dedication, qualities that carried with him throughout his life.

Above all else, Thomas cherished his family, both immediate and extended. His presence was steady, his love was genuine, and his legacy will live on through the music he created, the hearts he touched, and the life he poured into those he loved most.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Marva L. Parrish; his grandfathers, Jessie R. Staten and Eulin B. Matthews, Sr.; and his uncle, Lonnie Helton.

Thomas is survived by his wife, India Matthews; father, Thomas (Denise)

Matthews, Sr.; mother, Kimberly Matthews; his siblings, Dakota Matthews and Aspen Matthews; his grandmother, Mary Matthews; his aunts, Jacqueline (William) Middlebrooks, Vicky (Everage) Holloway, Debbie Matthews, and Jesyne Bazan; and his uncles, Fred Matthews, Sr., Eulin Matthews, Jr., Alphonso Tarrant, Roderick Brown, Jeffery Staten, and Liem Nguyen; along with a host of extended family members and friends who loved him dearly.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel of Taylor Funeral Home with Bishop William Carter, Jr. as the Eulogist. Interment will follow in Lakewood Memory Gardens, East.

Though his time with us was far too short, Thomas Lee Matthews, Jr., leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, creativity, and quiet greatness that will never be forgotten.

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Memory Gardens East

4621 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

DEC **20**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Funeral Service

DEC **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

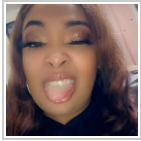
Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Burial

DEC **20**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Lakewood Memory Gardens East
4621 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Tribute Wall



“ *Rest easy little brother! Thank you for your friendship ... Prayers for you all during this process.. Grief has no time limit so take your time. Sending Love ❤️*

Amanda Welcher - December 21, 2025 at 01:54 AM



“ *Thank you for being a great friend to my son. May God comfort your family at this difficult time.*



Sherrie Tanksley - December 20, 2025 at 04:41 PM

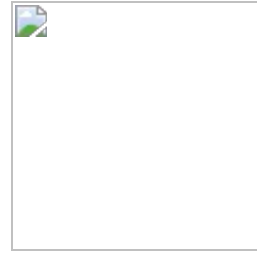


“ *With love and all our memories together you will be missed 💔 but never forget you have received your golden wings ☐ now I hope you dance with your grandma Patchs and watch over you mom we love you son
Uncle Rusty
WILLIAM & TAMMY IKARD*

Tammy Ikard - December 20, 2025 at 04:27 PM



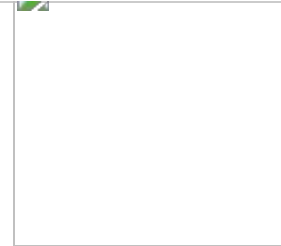
“ *Tammy Ikard sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.*



Tammy Ikard - December 20, 2025 at 04:18 PM



“ *Prayers, Condolences and Thoughts to Tom's family, wife India and his child. You can rest assured Tom was a solid guy. Great musician and proud to call him a friend. He always spoke positive words and energy. Keep the faith and keep your head up.*



Xavier Miller - December 20, 2025 at 06:02 AM



“ *TRU2U BEAUTY, BEBES Salon purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Matthews, Jr..*



TRU2U BEAUTY, BEBES Salon - December 19, 2025 at 04:51 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Yolanda Cox - December 19, 2025 at 03:15 PM

Y

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Yolanda Cox - December 19, 2025 at 01:48 PM

Y

“ Thomas was a very talented musician. I enjoyed his entertainment always.



Yolanda Cox - December 19, 2025 at 01:48 PM

LF

“ Love, Shirley Hampton and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas Matthews, Jr..

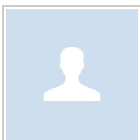


Love, Shirley Hampton and Family - December 19, 2025 at 01:45 AM



“ Remembering the family in our prayers Pastor Gerald Spence Sr and Minister Sheila Bomar Spence

Sheila Spence - December 18, 2025 at 11:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Matthews, Jr..



December 18, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ JoAnna Otero planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Matthews, Jr..

JoAnna Otero - December 18, 2025 at 04:54 PM



“ JoAnna Otero purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Thomas Matthews, Jr..



JoAnna Otero - December 18, 2025 at 04:54 PM

DJ

“ *Debbie J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Matthews, Jr..*

Debbie J. - December 18, 2025 at 04:45 PM

GF

“ *Gloria Staten, Jeffrey Staten and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Matthews, Jr..*

Gloria Staten, Jeffrey Staten and Family - December 18, 2025 at 01:28 PM

GF

“ *Gloria Staten, Jeffrey Staten and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas Matthews, Jr..*



Gloria Staten, Jeffrey Staten and Family - December 18, 2025 at 01:28 PM

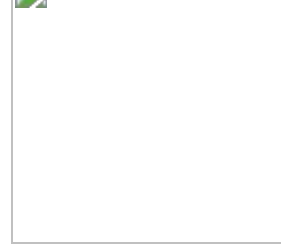
T

“ *Tonya Hutchins lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.*

Tonya Hutchins - December 18, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ *Debbie Matthews lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.*



Debbie Matthews - December 18, 2025 at 12:01 PM



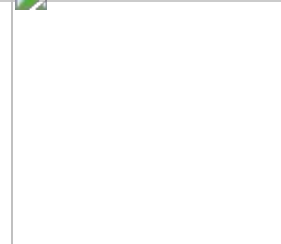
“ *Mina Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.*



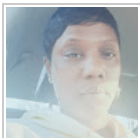
Mina Buchanan - December 18, 2025 at 08:32 AM



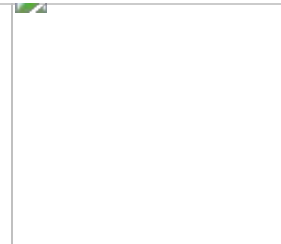
“ *Wisdom Wise lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.*



Wisdom Wise - December 18, 2025 at 12:05 AM



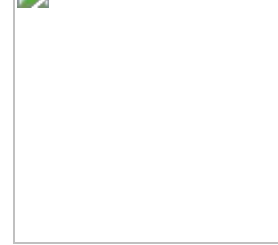
“ *Yolanda Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.*



yolanda mitchell - December 17, 2025 at 07:39 PM



“ To the family and friends you have my deepest condolences from the New Hope Baptism Church family



Pamela Mathis - December 17, 2025 at 03:15 AM



“ A very talented man. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to be onstage with him. He will be missed.



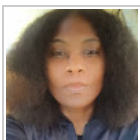
Erika Roberts - December 16, 2025 at 05:42 PM



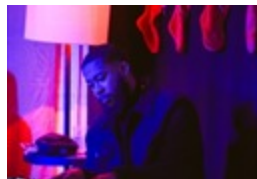
“ India you have our condolences so sorry for your loss



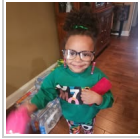
Shemica Kendricks - December 16, 2025 at 04:22 PM



“ Rest easy Tom, it was fun sharing the stage with you 🙏



Mia Treadwell - December 15, 2025 at 07:00 PM



“ *Armstrong Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.*

Armstrong Armstrong - December 14, 2025 at 04:22 PM



“ *Your wings were ready but our Hearts were not i love you cousin 🕊️🕊️*

yolanda mitchell - December 13, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ *India, I am so saddened to hear that Thomas passed; you, your son and your family have my deepest condolences and will continue to be in my prayers; Thomas was an awesome person and a very talented musician and I am proud to say that he taught me how to play the bass guitar. I am forever grateful for that. 🌺❤️*

melva moore - December 13, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ I would like to give my love , hugs , and condolences to my dear best friend India, their precious son Tobias, And the rest of Tom’s family and friends . Tom was a great guy , and I am so happy I was able to be in you and India’s wedding, and share that awesome moment with you both, we had a ball . Rest in peace my friend 🙏🕊️🌺

Quentoria Kendricks - December 13, 2025 at 12:30 AM



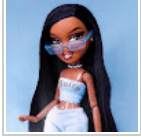
“ Dedra Jenkins Carter lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.

Dedra Jenkins Carter - December 12, 2025 at 11:46 PM



“ Clarice Laster lit a candle in memory of Thomas Matthews, Jr.

clarice laster - December 12, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ I met Thomas freshman year of high school at CSAS in 2005. He was always quiet until I got to know him and discovered he was really a comedian at heart lol. I was so relieved to see a familiar face when I started at VW a couple of years back and it was so nice to reminisce with an old friend! This loss truly broke my heart. I pray that God comforts the hearts of his family, friends, and colleagues during this time. We lost an angel. Rest peacefully my friend! ❤️



RoRo - December 12, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ We send our heartfelt condolences to India, all the Matthews, Eppingers, and their extended families. You have our fervent prayers of support as you start this grief journey in sweet remembrance of Thomas.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

*In Christian Love,
J. J. and Sharon Winston
Ooltewah*

Sharon Winston - December 11, 2025 at 10:41 PM

A

“ Tom was one of the nicest people I knew when I first started at Volkswagen. I remember telling me he was going to propose to India years ago and showed me a picture of the ring. I was so happy for them! We used to crack jokes while working with our team and laugh all day. He will truly be missed

Angel Cappellazzo - December 11, 2025 at 03:24 PM

 James Brantley

“ Peace Be Still, my sincere condolences to your family and friends. I so enjoyed knowing you and being amazed by your musical talents. Rest easy Thomas.



James Brantley - December 11, 2025 at 02:10 PM

C

“ I will never forget all the talks we had about family, music and just working at Volkswagen. You will forever be missed Tom. Save me a seat in Heaven Brother. Love you Bro!



Corey Linn - December 11, 2025 at 01:06 AM