



Desmonia Lewis Thornton

May 8, 1954 - September 10, 2020

Desmonia Lewis Thornton, affectionately known as “Dezi,” daughter of the late Kenneth and Neida C. (Harris) Lewis, was born Saturday, May 8, 1954, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Dezi peacefully departed this life on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at the Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan, from complications of diabetes. Despite her condition, she remained optimistic about life and brought joy to her family, friends, and all whose lives she touched.

At two years old, Dezi was diagnosed with Hemihypertrophy which is a rare disorder. She was admitted into the Elizabethtown Hospital for Crippled Children in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, where she remained a patient throughout her childhood for corrective treatment. What may have been perceived as a roadblock that would stop others completely is a true testament of Dezi’s strength and determination to overcome and flourish.

Dezi graduated from Harrisburg High School in 1972. Throughout high-school she had an affinity for numbers and excelled in science and math. Dezi followed her passion and studied physics at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt). Her fascination and drive to be progressive in Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), led her to the opportunity of employment as a biochemist with the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan, from where she retired.

Dezi was a member of the Ford Motor Company Emissions Testing Team that attracted scientist, doctors, and engineers from around the world. In the testing lab, they were in search of cost-effective metals to replace platinum that resided inside the catalytic converter which aided in the elimination of carbon monoxide and reduced toxic gases and pollutants in exhaust gas from the engine. At that time, platinum was a rare metal that was not conducive for mass production of vehicles.

In 1982, she married the love-of-her-life, Thomas G. Thornton, an electrical engineer at General Motors, yet retired as a senior electrical engineer at Chrysler. They spent over 38 years together until her untimely departure. Dezi delighted in the joys of family and friends. With every encounter, she brought laughter and always encouraged everyone to “live their best lives.” She was a dedicated wife, stepmother, step-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. In her journey of life, she leaves behind so many great memories. She has inspired and touched countless lives along the way through her love, strength, character, and free spirit.

Dezi leaves to cherish her memory, her beloved husband, Thomas G. Thornton; stepdaughter, laisha Thornton; two step-grandchildren, Brooklyn Smith and Jalen White; four siblings, Melva McArthur (Sim), Keith Lewis (Renee), Ilka Davenport (Dennis Novinger), and Andrea Wade; as well as the Graves Family (her family away from home), Adeana and Arianna Graves (whom she loved as if they were her children), her KATG friends, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and her infamous doll collection.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciate for all the prayers and support during this difficult time.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A

MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY YOUR NAME ALLOWING THE FAMILY TO KNOW YOU ARE THINKING OF THEM.

ON-LINE STREAMING OF SERVICE. CLICK ON THE PHOTOS & VIDEOS TAB OR MEDIA TAB (MOBILE) AND TRIBUTE WEBCAST TO VIEW.

Previous Events

Flower Delivery

SEP **18**. 8:30 AM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.
106 Agnes St
Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 939-9950
wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com
<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com>

Remembering The Life

SEP **18**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.
106 Agnes St
Harrisburg, PA 17104
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Tribute Wall



“ Wallace Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Desmonia Lewis Thornton



Wallace Funeral Directors - September 18, 2020 at 02:16 PM



“ Wallace Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Desmonia Lewis Thornton



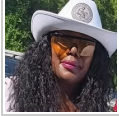
Wallace Funeral Directors - September 17, 2020 at 11:57 AM

CF

“ Prayers for Tommy and The Thornton Family.
Cous Dezi at Peace with the Lord. God's strength and comfort be with you All. God Bless



Cousin Crystal Newkirk & Woodward Family - September 18, 2020 at 10:18 AM



Sending my deepest condolences and for the loss of Cousin Dezi, sending prayers to Tommy, Melva, Elka, Keith and Angie from the Wood Family of Washington, DC

Kim Wood Campbell - September 22, 2020 at 11:33 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Desmonia Lewis Thornton.*



September 18, 2020 at 12:11 AM



“ *Dezi, my sweet godmother, you were a mother to me from the start. I'll miss your warm smile, and your affectionate laugh. I'll miss you, I'll miss seeing your car come down the street to my house. I'll miss you so much. I'll make sure tommy and family is okay I love you. ❤️*

adeana - September 18, 2020 at 12:03 AM

JW

“ Dear Aunt Dezi,
Although you were far away, you made a profound influence on my life. As a youngster, you always sent me books and magazines to educate me. That summer that I visited you and uncle Tommy as a teen, I missed out on some competition trophies. Nevertheless, I gained a career that shaped the rest of my life as an Engineer. It was far more valuable than any trophies could have ever been. Thank you for exposing me to a career that I was completely unaware of until then.

I hope you enjoyed the calendars over the years. I know that you were looking for more integration into the calendars. I hope that I did better over the years. Now that you're gone, I'm finding of old pictures. You will not be forgotten.

Your personal nickname for me Jinn-Jinn

P.S. – To my family, due to the contagious nature of COVID-19, if you do not see me, I will virtually attend.

JINA WHITEHEAD - September 17, 2020 at 04:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ba Hall - September 17, 2020 at 03:48 PM

JD

“ *Ilka & LEWIS/THORTON families,*

*My Prayers and condolences are with you.
Class of 72, KATG.*

You have earned your Wings DEZI!

May your LOVING memories bring comfort to all.



JERRY DUDLEY - September 17, 2020 at 03:36 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ba Hall - September 17, 2020 at 03:21 PM



All Bridesmaid's hated their dresses, but Dezi never complained!

Ba Hall - September 17, 2020 at 03:26 PM



*A part of you, dear Dezi, stays with us; but a part of us, goes with you.
We love you & share in your loss*

Ba Hall - September 17, 2020 at 04:05 PM

SW

RIP Sweet cousin Desi...

Desi was always pleasant and kind. Always such a special and caring soul... We love 💕 you and miss you. RIP Desi 💕🥺💕

SHERI WOODWARD - September 17, 2020 at 11:30 PM

CB

“ *To Ilka, Keith and family.
So sorry for the loss of your dear Sister. May the lives you shared
filled with beautiful memories of her help ease the pain of her loss.*

Carista Butts-Wilson - September 17, 2020 at 11:20 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Desmonia Lewis Thornton.*



September 17, 2020 at 11:07 AM

“ Tribute to Dezi

We loved Dezi and we have been her “go-to-squad” for the past 45 years, since we first met way back in Pittsburgh. She was like a sister-mother-bff to us, in every way but birth. The four of us soon lived in different states but spoke regularly. We would travel to places across the country, to meet, for what we called “conventions”, (way before #GirlsTrip, the movie) in order to “chill out” with one another. We would enjoy different restaurants, museums, culture, shopping, nightlife, concerts, plays and other entertainment. Some of the places we traveled to included: Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, Detroit, Buffalo, the Quad Cities, Pittsburgh & Miami (cruise). We were inspired to start our own business (“our baby”) and we named it C.E.(Convention Enterprises).

Since our twenties, we’ve supported each other through major life events like weddings; celebrated two first born sons; supported each other through the loss of our mothers; moves into new homes; changing jobs; various health crisis’ and one divorce. When we visited Detroit, Dezi prepared us meals, acted as our Uber driver, and made sure we had a memorable time, with pictures to prove it! Dezi often acted like the “mother” in our group; she sent us each a personalized black “cabbage patch doll”, never forgot to send us special occasion cards, and yearly Obama calendars, plus other thoughtful items, with her own unique flare, to let us know she was thinking of us. Dezi was a gracious and compassionate soul.

Though we cannot be there now and we will miss Dezi forever, she will always be with us. We are grateful for the time we were able to spend together.

(L-R) Sharon R. Amos; Felecia Bragg & Barbara Hall



Sharon R. Amos - September 16, 2020 at 09:54 PM

JH

“ DEZI u will be missed. I will miss our lite pop calls as nd yur little laugh. RIP CUZ

James and Ingrid Hymon,Sr - September 16, 2020 at 08:01 PM

FW

“ Rest in Peace Dezi
My condolences to the family

Florence "Snookie" Winstead



Florence Winstead - September 16, 2020 at 07:23 PM

TK

“ On behalf of our long lasting Sister Group.. Our hearts are broken at the loss of our dear sister-friend. Our friendship with Dezi spans for some from grade school, others met her at Edison Jr High, but in High School we formed a club, which Dezi was a vital and outspoken member of.. We'll always remember Dezi for her thoughtfulness, her intelligence, her style, her statue, (she was always the tallest girl in the room.. lol).

Dezi was outspoken and strong.. Nobody messed with Dezi or doubted her strength and will power in a tight situation. Even to adulthood we remained close and cherished our high school memories forever!

(The LADIES of...) KATG

Brenda, CeCe, Debbie, DEZI, Dolly, Glennie KIM, Nobie, Sharon, Stephanie, Tana, T.C., Trudy, Valerie, Vanessa, and Von.

However, thru our sorrow at Dezi's passing we REJOICE in a life well lived! 🥺💔🥺💔🥺💔🥺💔🥺💔🥺💔🥺💔🥺💔

The Ladies of KATG - September 16, 2020 at 06:38 PM

CF

“ *Very sadden by the passing of my beloved cousin Dezi. Your Pa family love you and Prayers for your siblings. May God Rest Your Soul..Rest Easy Dezi.*



Cousin Crystal Newkirk & Woodward Family - September 16, 2020 at 06:21 PM