

In Memoriam

Jeffery Thomas

“Mr. Sweet Potato Sensations”

September 17, 1952 – September 9, 2025

WHEREAS Jeffery Thomas was born on September 17, 1952, in Georgia, to Leonard and Eloise Thomas. He was one of six children and deeply cherished his five siblings throughout his life; **AND**

WHEREAS Jeffery went on to attend Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where he studied Business Administration and Political Science. It was there he met Cassandra, who would become his lifelong partner of fifty years. He graduated in 1975, and together they moved to Detroit, MI; **AND**

WHEREAS On September 11, 1976, Jeffery and Cassandra married and built a family together, raising two extraordinary daughters, Charice “Espy” Thomas and Jennifer Thomas; **AND**

WHEREAS Robsco Coffee Service in Troy, Michigan had the benefit of experiencing Jeffery’s early employment, followed by work with SS White Dental Supply Company, which served Detroit’s African American independent dentists. He later moved on to automotive sales with Rockwell International in the late 1970s before becoming co-founder and co-owner of Sweet Potato Sensations with Cassandra in 1987. Together, they grew the business into a beloved neighborhood staple, known across Detroit and beyond; **AND**

WHEREAS Mr. Thomas enjoyed classic cars, music, and golf, He was known for his humor, storytelling, and love of a good Bid Whist game. With unique charm, he bestowed loving nicknames for his “Wifey” Cassandra while his presence brought laughter, pride, and a sense of unity to all who knew him; **AND**

WHEREAS On September 9, 2025, Jeffery Thomas transitioned from this temporal life to eternal life. His legacy endures through Cassandra, their daughters, his siblings, and the countless lives he touched through his family, faith, business, and community. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED That on this, the 20th day of September, in the year 2025, Councilman Pro Tem James E. Tate Jr., and the entire Detroit City Council extend their deepest condolences to the family of Jeffrey Thomas. Known affectionately as “Mr. Sweet Potato Sensation,” Mr. Thomas was a shining example of what it means to be a great man, father, husband, and entrepreneur. His unwavering love for his family, friends, and the City of Detroit was evident in all that he did. His legacy will live on not only through the beloved business he built, but also in the countless lives he touched and inspired. May his memory continue to uplift and guide our community for generations to come.