

WILLIAM L. THORNTON

a.k.a. “Billy”, “Bill”, or “Thunder Thornton”

Born in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1942

Education & Sports: Background

- 1960 – Graduate of Phoenixville Area High School.
 - While in high school played football, basketball & track.
 - All Chest-Mont Athlete in football & basketball.
 - In 1960 set track record at the Meet of Champions of 9.8 in the 100 yard dash at Franklin Field.
 - Was District 1 Champion in the 100 yard dash and took third at the Pennsylvania State Track Championship in the 100 yard dash.
 - Summer of 1960 tried out for the Philadelphia Phillies.
- 1961 – 1963 – Attended Mesa Junior College, Grand Junction, Colorado and ran track.
- 1963 – 1965 – Attended Utah State University, Logan, Utah and ran track.

Personal & Employment Background:

- 1965 – Married Clara Ford-Bey.
- 1965 – 1968 – Joined the Phoenixville Police Department. Also tried out for the Cincinnati Bengals.
- 1968 – 1969 – Worked for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.
- 1969 – 2006 – Rejoined the Phoenixville Police Department rising to the rank of Corporal.

Coaching Experience

- 1986 – 2000 – Assistant Football Coach at PAHS.
- 2004 to 2011 – Coaching defensive backs and wide receivers.

Member of the Following Boards & Community Organizations:

- Trustee of Bethel Baptist Church.
- President of the Phoenixville Community Council North.
- President of Knob Hill Athletic Club

- Member of the Phoenixville Recreation Board.

Recipient of the Following Awards

- Jaycees Outstanding Young Man of the Year. Outstanding Young Man of the Year – King.
- Solomon Lodge #130.
- Bethel Baptist Church & Community Peace Maker Award.
- Creger Westley Memorial Award.
- Highest Athletic Award at Mesa Junior College.

Favorite Scripture: John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you: let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”