



John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 12



John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019

John Patrick Thomas, age 73, of Centerville, passed away Monday, October 28, 2019 at Centerville Specialty Care.

He was born February 17, 1946 in Centerville, Iowa, the son of Paul Willard and Lula Maurine Thomas. John received his education from Centerville Schools, graduating from CHS in 1966. John later received his associates degree from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa.

He enlisted in the United States Army on October 25, 1966. John served his country faithfully during the Vietnam War, receiving numerous medals, such as the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Sharpshooter Badge, and the National Defense Service Medal. He was honorably discharged on January 31, 1969.

John was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth "MaryBeth" Lowe on March 8, 1969 in Bloomfield, Iowa. The couple were blessed with two children, David and Lora.

John served as a patrol officer with the Atlantic Police Department for three years, 1974-1977. John and MaryBeth relocated their family to Centerville in 1977. It was during this period of time that he accepted a position as an Equipment Operator I with the Iowa Department of Transportation in Centerville. A career spanning twenty-seven years, John retired as an Equipment Operator II with the Iowa Department of Transportation in 2004.

With a lifelong call to public service, John made the courageous decision to serve his country once again in the military. A member of the Army National Guard Unit from March 14, 1987 to March 13, 1993, John served during Desert Storm. He was also a dedicated recruitment officer for the Army National Guard.

In his free time, he possessed many passions, such as fishing, camping, traveling, attending his childrens extracurricular activities, and being active as a former member of the First Baptist Church in Centerville, with church related activities such



Obituary

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019

as Forrest Lake Baptist Camp and BYF, and also Marriage Encounter for several years.

John is survived by his wife of fifty years, MaryBeth Thomas of Centerville, Iowa; two children, David (Tammy) Thomas of Fairfield, Iowa, and Lora Thomas-Jones (Ron Eddy) of Moulton, Iowa; three nieces/nephews that they raised as their own children, Stephanie (Duane) Thompson, Chris (Danielle) Howard, and Megan (Keith) Foglesong; one brother, Allen (Peg) Thomas; a sister, Paula Hindley; six grandchildren, Logan (Jessica) Thomas, Nicole (Andy) Kerr, Rachel Thomas, Drennen Eddy, Xander Jones, and Xavier Jones; one great granddaughter, Henley Kerr; and eight great nieces and nephews, Seth Thompson, Emma Thompson, Aidan Howard, Haven Bunton, Charles Hale, Olivia Balliet, Ashram Foglesong, and Kira Foglesong.

John was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be held at 10 AM, Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Lange Funeral Home and Crematory in Centerville with Pastor Jeremy Croteau officiating. Burial with military rites will follow in the Oakland Cemetery, Centerville. A visitation will take place on Friday, November 1, 2019 at Lange Funeral Home in Centerville, with the family greeting friends from 4-7 PM. Memorials have been established to either EveryStep Hospice or to the University of Iowa Huntingtons Disease Center of Excellence, and may be mailed to Lange Funeral Home and Crematory, 1900 S. 18th St., Centerville, Iowa, 52544. Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com.

Visitation

2019-11-01 16:00:00

19:00:00

Lange Funeral Home & Crematory

1900 South 18th St

Centerville

IA

52544



Obituary

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019

Funeral Service

2019-11-02 10:00:00

Lange Funeral Home & Crematory

1900 South 18th St

Centerville

IA

52544



Tribute Wall

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019



Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 12:54 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 1:27 PM



Margery Davison posted:

John will be greatly missed. Our condolences to the family. From the Ewing family Matthew, Margery and Marilyn

November 4 at 7:00 PM



Julie Buban & Jazzmine Rulo posted:

Sorry for you you & your family's loss

November 1 at 7:00 PM



Mary Schwering posted:

John & Mary Beth were like parents to me when I was in high school. They were always very supportive of their children's friends and especially the Centerville Cross Country Team. Many of us would just go hang out there even without Dave & Lora at times! Awesome people. The loss of John will definitely leave a big whole in everyone's lives, but I will cherish all the memories of John, Mary Beth, and the Thomas family. Hugs to Mary Beth, Dave, and Lora. I am thinking of you all and am truly sorry for your loss. Mary (Stansberry) Schwering

October 31 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019

AT

Allen Thomas posted:

Last Saturday I said goodbye to John and this Saturday I will his funeral. Peg driving over these long hi ways gave me lots of time to think about how to express my feelings! I could not, so here is our ribbons story. John and I were in Centerville High School track together. John got ribbons in; every race; I got one (6th, green) After that came Vietnam. John went in the Army and to Vietnam; I to the Coast Guard with John earning lots of ribbons (medals) and I got one. Wouldn't you John and Marybeth decided to have a wedding, with me as best man, in uniforms and with ribbons. For years we had more fun teasing each other over our ribbons, but in reality we both knew the real meanings of those ribbons, especially John's actions before himself and Country first! At his funeral family and friends will memorialize John as a Thomas family elder to follow in character and carry forth for generations to come.Finally remember John's long, long terrible illness, how he accepted it, never asked why, and is giving all he can to scientific and heath researchYou done good John

October 31 at 7:00 PM

DS

Dianne Strickler posted:

So sorry to hear this and news. Sympathies to all of the family.

October 30 at 7:00 PM

AT

Allen Thomas posted:

My wife Peggy and I (John's brother) we're so blessed by our visit with John, our sister Paula and Marybeth! Last Thur. afternoon Marybeth and John met us in the main care center visiting room. With his temperature down John was able to acknowledge and relate with us, After a short time his temperature returned and needed to go back to his room...John slept most of Friday. Since we needed to leave Saturday morning, we returned to the care center To say goodbye . As we entered john's room, he said hi Peg, his temperature had dropped. After a few minutes of WOWS from all of us, I leaned over him cradling his hands between mine asking are you in pain no are you ok yes you know you done good, then as we left... I knew I could never explain my feelings of joy and love from that moment

October 30 at 7:00 PM

GS

Gary Sample posted:

I always enjoyed working with John when I worked with the Centerville DOT crew.

October 30 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019

HW

Harry Wood lit a candle in honor of John.

Lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Thomas

October 30 at 7:00 PM



HW

Harry Wood posted:

My sympathies to the whole family. John was a truly great man who loved his family...

October 30 at 7:00 PM

RK

Rita Kelly posted:

We were very fortunate to grow up in such a loving family - extended family environment. I have such wonderful memories of John on our camping trips, family outings and holidays together. I know he will be missed by all of us but we are so blessed to have known him.

October 30 at 7:00 PM

JA

Judy Anders posted:

So sorry for your loss. Will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

October 30 at 7:00 PM

DS

Dave And Trisha Stephens posted:

Mary Beth, We are sorry for your loss. John will be greatly missed by family and friends. He fought the good fight. Our prayers are with you. Heaven is rejoicing! Well done, good and faithful servant

October 29 at 7:00 PM

TC

Tom And Colene Chebuhar posted:

Sending love and hugs to MaryBeth, Lora, and the entire family!

October 29 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019

NG

Norman And Kay Guffey posted:

Mary Beth and family, we are so sorry for your loss. John was so kind, friendly and a joy to visit with whenever he was out and about. May you find peace and comfort in the loving hands of God.

October 29 at 7:00 PM

DC

Dennis L. Corder posted:

I grew up with John from grade school through high school, he was a good friend and will be truly missed by all.

October 29 at 7:00 PM

JF

James Furlin posted:

John was truly one of the finest people on the planet.

October 29 at 7:00 PM

LP

Leanne (Thomas) Pike posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories of visiting Centerville, especially during Pancake Day, and sitting around in lawn chairs just laughing with John. He was such a warm and welcoming person. Love to all of you.

October 29 at 7:00 PM

JW

Jayne Wyckoff Wells posted:

I got to watch grandchildren play basketball at Davis County with John and Mary Beth a few years ago. He was always a sweet man. God bless you all during this time of sadness.

October 29 at 7:00 PM

MS

Margery And John Sandy posted:

Mary Beth and Family, So sorry for your loss-always remember the good times.

October 29 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019

NT

Nellie Thomas lit a candle in honor of John.

Lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Thomas

October 28 at 7:00 PM



PT

Patricia Timmens posted:

I am so very sorry for your loss. Holding all of you in my heart.

October 28 at 7:00 PM

MA

Marsh Arndt posted:

John was technically my cousin but I always called him Uncle John. His smile was infectious and he was one of the most loving person I have ever met! I love you Uncle John! Hugs and Prayers Aunt Marybeth I love you! ❤️

October 28 at 7:00 PM

MZ

Marion & Jane Zemo21 posted:

Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

October 28 at 7:00 PM

SS

Shanan (Kimple) Schmidt posted:

Praying for all of you. I have nothing but fond memories of John over the years.

October 28 at 7:00 PM

JD

Judi A Duncan posted:

Mary Beth, David and Lora we are so very sorry for your loss. Thinking of you. Hugs

October 28 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019



Dennis & Beverly Sisul Laurson lit a candle in honor of John.

Lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Thomas

October 27 at 7:00 PM



Jeff & Tammy Dunbar posted:

So sorry for your loss. Please know you and your family are in our thoughts and our prayers.

October 27 at 7:00 PM



Media

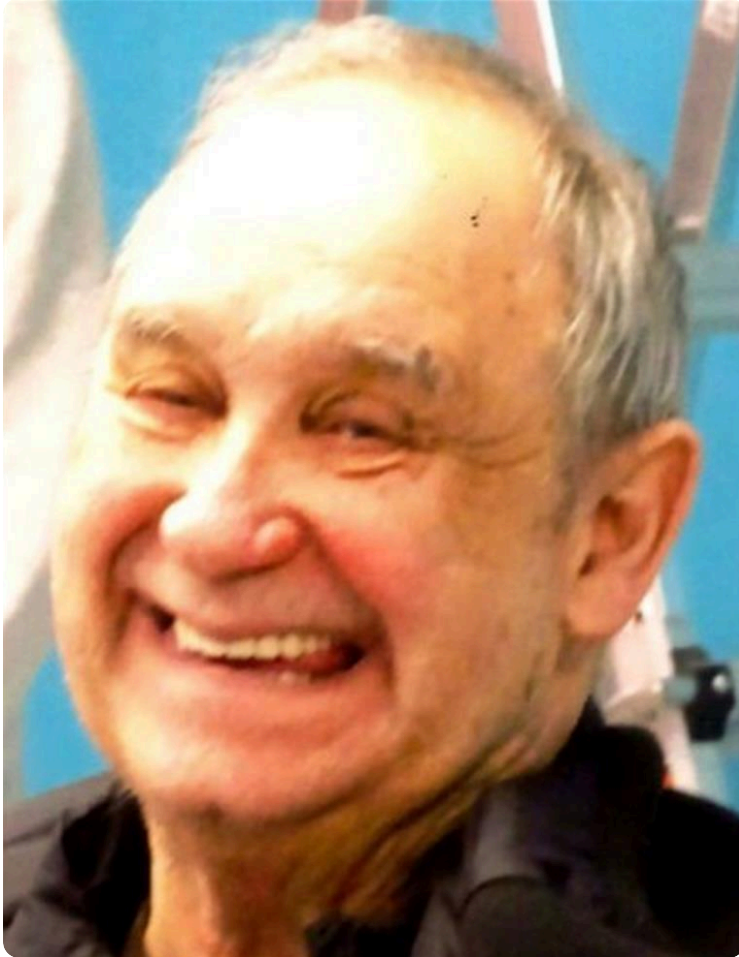
John Patrick Thomas

FEB 17, 1946 - OCT 28, 2019



Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 1:27 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit