



## Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas

March 22, 1938 - July 5, 2015

Carl Edward "Johnny" Thomas, 77, of Cairo, passed away on Sunday, July 5, 2015. He was the loving husband of Donna Thomas. They were married on August 28, 1961, celebrating almost 54 years of marriage together.

He will be remembered for his kind, gentle spirit and the love he had for his family and friends. He loved to make others laugh. Carl enjoyed the simple things in life as an avid fisherman and his love of basketball. His favorite color...North Carolina Tar Heels blue.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran serving from 1956-1960.

He worked for Cairo Public Utility for 37 years until his retirement in 2001 as Chief Operator of the waste water treatment facility.

He is survived by his wife, Donna (Rothchild) Thomas; two daughters, Karla Shaffer and husband Chuck of Wentzville, MO, Kara Hubbard and husband David of Grand Chain, IL; four sons, John Kevin and wife Angie of Metropolis, IL, Kent and wife Stacey, of Millington, TN, Kyle of Kevil, KY, Keith of Metropolis, IL; grandchildren, Avery, Brittany, Morgan, Natalie, Andrew, Jacqueline, Amber, Erik, Rachel, Alex, Leigh and Ben.

He is also survived by one sister, Barbara Thomas of Paducah, KY, one brother, Howard Thomas, Jr. and wife Glenda of Rossville, GA and several cousins, nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Helen (Schuch) Thomas, and his father, Howard Thomas, Sr.

Visitation for Carl Thomas will be Sunday, July 12, 2015 from 5:00 pm to 8:00

pm at Crain Funeral Home in Cairo.

Funeral services will be held Monday, July 13, 2015 at 11:00 am at the funeral home with Rev. Larry Potts officiating. Interment will follow at Mound City National Cemetery with military honors by area veterans and the Illinois National Guard.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Upward Basketball Program (1000 Poplar Street, Cairo, IL, 62914) and will be accepted at the funeral home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Kara lit a candle in memory of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas*



**kara** - November 16, 2015 at 01:08 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you,so sorry for your loss. Judy and Dave Petermichel*

**Dave and Judy Petermichel** - July 13, 2015 at 07:41 AM



“ *Ed and Lynn Armstrong purchased the America t he Beautiful for the family of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas .*



**Ed and Lynn Armstrong** - July 12, 2015 at 04:08 PM

SM

“ *Sending prayers and love.*



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**Scott & Gae Morris** - July 12, 2015 at 04:04 PM

CG

“ *THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOUR FAMILY I KNOW YOU ARE LOOKING AFTER THEM... GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU. LOVE CAROL GEVERS DAWN, AND GREG*

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**CAROLYN GEVERS** - July 12, 2015 at 02:53 PM

JP

“ *No one is perfect but Carl Thomas came as close as any person could. There are so many adjectives that apply to him. He was kind, honest, loving, patriotic, dependable, honorable and entertaining. We always loved for him to tell a fishing story. He would cast and reel the fish in as he spun the tale. He could mimic sounds and impersonate people...thoroughly entertaining every time! Most of all Carl led by example. He was devoted to Donna, to his children and to his grandchildren. All of his family and friends knew him as a humble Christian man without pretense. He was loved by many and he will truly be missed by all who were fortunate to know him. Many of the Thomas family are our extended Cairo family. Your loss is shared by our family and the neighborhood. Carl will always be in our hearts and all of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Your loss is our loss. Much love to all!*

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**Janell and Johnny Puckett** - July 11, 2015 at 09:57 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas .*



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July 11, 2015 at 02:32 PM



“ *Alan and Trisha Grantham purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas .*



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**Alan and Trisha Grantham** - July 10, 2015 at 09:33 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas .*



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July 10, 2015 at 07:26 PM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas .*



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July 10, 2015 at 05:56 PM

DF

“ *Deanna Charlet, Robin, Ronda, Jerry, Tom and Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas .*



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**Deanna Charlet, Robin, Ronda, Jerry, Tom and Family** - July 10, 2015 at 05:09 PM

KG

“ *My love and prayers to the Thomas family. Carl will be missed by all of you; however, the love you have for him is with him forever. Your family bond and love will help you get through this sorrowful time. Love and prayers, Kathy Grove.*



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**Kathy Grove** - July 10, 2015 at 02:46 PM

JF

“ *I've only had the pleasure of knowing Carl for a few years now. We met through Mighty Rivers Church in Cairo. He was ALWAYS kind and welcoming to everyone. He and I had a special (UNC) University of North Carolina connection! So- this ones for you Carolina.... GO. HEELS!*

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**Jamie McClellan and Family** - July 10, 2015 at 09:39 AM

CS

“ Karla,  
Mark, the girls and I are sending many  
prayers to you and your family on this great  
loss. Know he is in Gods loving arms and  
cherish all memories of him.  
Love to all  
Chris, Mark, Jamie and Katelin Smith



Chris Smith - July 10, 2015 at 08:30 AM

JA

“ Joy McGovern Aden lit a candle in memory of  
Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas



Joy McGovern Aden - July 10, 2015 at 12:21 AM

JA

You all are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Joy McGovern Aden - July 10, 2015 at 12:22 AM

CR

“ Such a blessed family to know..will be praying  
that God provides the family with strength and  
comfort.



Cindy rice - July 09, 2015 at 10:48 PM

NF

“ Nancy Bosecker Fraley lit a candle in memory of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas



Nancy Bosecker Fraley - July 09, 2015 at 10:32 PM

BJ

“ Tom and I thought a lot of Carl. Tom really enjoyed knowing Carl the short time he knew him. I know they had a lot of 'fishing' tales to talk about. Carl will be truly missed. The family is in my prayers.

Betty Jones - July 09, 2015 at 10:28 PM

MQ

“ Michelle Qualls sent a virtual gift in memory of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas



Michelle Qualls - July 09, 2015 at 08:40 PM

MW

“ You couldn't ask for a sweeter man. He and Donna were a wonderful couple, parents and grandparents. When Craig and I lived on 31st Street, we could not have asked for better neighbors. Donna's sweet faith and great memories will be what sustains her. Love, Mary Susan and Craig Worthington

Mary Susan Worthington - July 09, 2015 at 08:29 PM

CB

“ Donna and family  
He was a blessing, always had a smile and a kind word.He will be missed.You could not askes for a better Godly man.I remember going to church with you all at Cairo Baptist.  
You are in our prayers




Crystal (Grace) Baker - July 09, 2015 at 08:28 PM

HT

“ No one could have had a better big brother than me. He was the one responsible for me liking sports. He and I would talk basketball sometimes for hours and would always tell me how well or not so well I had played that night. I will miss and think of him everyday .  
Howard (little brother).

Howard Thomas - July 09, 2015 at 08:11 PM

 Becky Williams-Anderson

“ Becky Williams-Anderson lit a candle in memory of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas



Becky Williams-Anderson - July 09, 2015 at 08:06 PM

RF

“ Russell & Nancy Rothchild and Family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas .



Russell & Nancy Rothchild and Family - July 09, 2015 at 07:52 PM



“ Kevin Klein lit a candle in memory of Carl E. "Johnny" Thomas



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Kevin Klein - July 09, 2015 at 07:35 PM



“ Carl and Donna Thomas have always been loved and respected by all.  
I will sure miss Carl, he was a wonderful friend.  
Our prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

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Richard Kearney - July 09, 2015 at 03:05 PM



“ Donna,

*Gerri and I send prayers for John (as I knew him) and you. What a terrible thing to happen.*

*John was a good man. I remember, in high school, he and I would walk home after basketball practice (and games). I would stop at 20th street and he still had about 14 blocks to go. I felt sorry for him because I was tired. I didn't have any brothers at that point in time, and wished I had one like him. He was a really good person.*

*Art (Butch) Kaha and Gerri (Kearney) Kaha*

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Arthur Kaha - July 09, 2015 at 01:17 PM

DJ

*Donna, Hold on to your memories and let them guide you during this time of sadness. Our Prayers are with you.*  
*Dolly Johnson*

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**Dolly Johnson** - July 09, 2015 at 08:02 PM

MS

*Donna & family - God has a new Angel to assist him now Carl was one of the kindest men I have ever known and was loved by all.*

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**Mary Simmons** - July 09, 2015 at 11:23 PM