



SFC Thomas E. George

September 27, 1933 - September 24, 2022

IN MEMORY OF:

SFC Thomas E. George

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – EGYPTIAN CHAPEL

3208 South Park Avenue, Energy, Illinois

SFC Thomas E. George, age 88, of Marion, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 12:20 a.m. at his home with his wife, great-grandson and his girl, Daisy May, by his side.

Thomas was born on September 27, 1933 in Fitzgerald, Georgia to Jerome Drudie and Cora Lou (Swann) George. He married Ruby Ann Patterson on December 26, 1953 and together they have shared almost 69 years of marriage. She survives in Marion.

Thomas's father passed away when he was only three years old. His mother worked tirelessly to support her family, but it was almost impossible. The children were sent to live in an orphanage. Thomas ran away from the orphanage at the age of 13 and joined the King's Brothers' Circus. He traveled the U.S. and up through Canada. He was the prop master and also took care of a zebra, elephant, horses and even a giraffe. It was during his time with the

circus he mastered speaking pig latin (which his wife absolutely hated).

After leaving the circus, Thomas joined the United States Army at the age of 15 and went to jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia. He served his country during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. During his time in the service he was stationed in Germany, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Storage, Virginia, Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was during his station in Kentucky that he met his wife, and after courting for two weeks they were married. Thomas retired from his career in the Army after 22 years and attained the rank of Sergeant First Class. He and his family moved to Columbus, Georgia and lived there for five years, and finally moved to southern Illinois, where he became an active member of the Marion First Apostolic Church, serving as a youth teacher. He most recently attended Johnston City United Pentecostal Church.

Survivors include his loving wife, Ruby Ann George; two sons, Michael Ray (Danette) George and Jerome (Bobbette) George; a great-grandson, who they raised, Steven George. After Thomas was placed on hospice care, Steven became his full time caregiver until his last breath. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Sonya Braden, Ryan George and Destiny Griffith; his great-grandchildren, Johnathon Rice, Quintin Rice, Braxton George, Asher George, Aria George, Tatum Griffith and Oliver Griffith; his great-great-grandchildren, Lily Rice, Octavia Rice and Sayler Rice; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, one sister, and a very dear friend, the late First Lady of Marion First Apostolic Church, Sister LaNell Walls.

Visitation will be held at Johnston City United Pentecostal Church on Friday, September 30, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at Johnston City United Pentecostal Church on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. with Reverend Brandon Abernathy officiating. Burial will follow in Herrin City Cemetery with graveside military rites.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial donations may be made to Johnston City United Pentecostal Church. Envelopes will be available and accepted during the visitation and service or mailed in care of Crain Funeral Home, P.O. Box 595, Energy, Illinois 62933.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crain Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Herrin City Cemetery

Herrin, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnston City United Pentecostal Church
1101 W. 10th St.
Johnston City, IL 62951

Funeral Service

OCT 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Johnston City United Pentecostal Church
1101 W. 10th St.
Johnston City, IL 62951

Interment

OCT 1 (CT)

Herrin City Cemetery
Herrin, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *SFC Thomas E. George*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of SFC Thomas E. George.*



September 28, 2022 at 07:21 PM



“ *Miss Ruby*
I'm very sorry for your loss. Mr. George was a fine person and I have many fond memories of you both. May he Rest In Peace and May the lord give you comfort.

Dalyce Rupert - September 26, 2022 at 05:12 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of SFC Thomas E. George.*



September 26, 2022 at 12:38 PM

DW

“ TO THE FAMILY THOMAS WILL BE MISSED DEARLY BUT THE LORD NEEDED ONE SPECIAL ANGEL THOMAS TOOK THE OPENING AND TODAY'S HE'S IN HEAVEN

Douglas W Wagoner - September 26, 2022 at 11:27 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of SFC Thomas E. George.



September 26, 2022 at 11:22 AM

SG

“ Pop thank you for raising me I will always be grateful that and I was Honored To be your caregiver the past 4 months. I love you pop we will meet again someday.



Steven George - September 26, 2022 at 01:40 AM