



James R. Thomas Sr.

June 17, 1933 - February 14, 2019

James Rayner Thomas, Sr., 85, of Havana, IL, entered eternal peace at 3:45 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2019 in his home, surrounded by his family. Jim was born in Lincoln, IL on June 17, 1933, to Arthur R. and Mildred (Gilchrist) Thomas. He married Carolyn Ann Drigotas in August 1958 and later married Pamela Heil on July 17, 1982.

Jim will be lovingly missed by his wife, Pamela, of Havana; son, James Jr. "Jamie" (Laura) Thomas; grandson, James R. Thomas III and granddaughter, Carolyn Ann Thomas, all of Colorado; brother-in-law, Dr. Ogden N. Munroe; nephew, Thomas K. (Stacia) Munroe; and great-nephew Logan H. Munroe; sister-in-law, Connie Drigotas of Kennebunk, ME and De Heil of Taylorville, IL, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by wife, Carolyn Ann (Drigotas) Thomas, parents and sister, Anne T. Munroe.

Jim graduated from Springfield High School in 1951 and from Monmouth College in 1955, where he played varsity basketball. After college, Jim proudly served his country in the U.S. Marines and was a Korean War Veteran, attaining the rank of 1st Lieutenant. His passions were God and Family. He was dedicated to his family. He was able to face challenges and setbacks with grace and dignity. He was an avid sportsman and proudly enjoyed watching his son and both grandchildren play college basketball. He had served as Mayor of his township, when living in Maryland, President of Land of Lincoln

Insurance Company, Board of Directors at Land of Lincoln Bank, President of Town & Country Realty and Illinois Department of Revenue. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Springfield, IL and a member of Central Christian Church in Havana, where he as Board Chairman, Elder and Trustee.

Funeral services will be held at Central Christian Church in Havana at Noon, on Monday, February 18, 2019, with visitation one hour prior to the services. Burial will follow the services at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Havana. Rev. Dr. Donald Graham will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to Central Christian Church in Havana. Online memorial messages may be left for the family at www.hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Central Christian Church
215 South Broadway
Havana, IL 62644

Funeral

FEB 18. 12:00 PM (CT)

Central Christian Church
215 South Broadway
Havana, IL 62644

Tribute Wall



“ *James R. Thomas Sr.*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Pam: So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was such a loving, kind, caring person. I will always remember our visits with a smile and know how much he loved you. Prayers and condolences to the entire family. Love you Melissa*

Melissa - February 18, 2019 at 09:41 AM



“ *Condolences to the family. Jim was the best neighbor a person could ever have. I cherish the many conversations over the back fence in Springfield and at church in Havana Jim always had good things to say about others and he was a joy to talk to. My Aunt was very fond of both Jim and Pam and often spoke about how much they supported their church. Jim will truly be missed.*

Dick Chesnut

Dick Chesnut - February 17, 2019 at 03:17 PM



“ *Greg & Steph Vaughn lit a candle in memory of James R. Thomas Sr.*



Greg & Steph Vaughn - February 17, 2019 at 02:59 PM

CL

“ Carol Lawson lit a candle in memory of James R. Thomas Sr.



carol Lawson - February 17, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James R. Thomas Sr..



February 16, 2019 at 07:44 PM



“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of James R. Thomas Sr..



February 16, 2019 at 04:33 PM

CS

“ Pam, I was so sorry to hear that Jim had passed on. I really enjoyed it when both of you would come in the Post Office together! I've really missed seeing you since I retired from my window clerk job. Both of you always smiled and made my day a little easier. Thank you for your grace and time. I'll be sending you good thoughts!!!

Carol Schmidt - February 16, 2019 at 09:18 AM

CS

“ *Cammy Smith lit a candle in memory of James R. Thomas Sr.*



Cammy Smith - February 15, 2019 at 04:45 PM

KC

“ *Pam, I'm so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I remember how very dear he was to you, my sweet friend.*

Kris Claypool - February 15, 2019 at 03:27 PM