



Howard "Ray" Thomas Sr.

December 7, 1942 - June 27, 2023

Howard "Ray" Thomas, Sr., age 80, passed away June 27, 2023 at his home. Ray was born December 7, 1942 in Mount Holly, North Carolina to Walter and Gertrude Mae Johnson Thomas. He married Rhoda Anderson on September 8, 1962 at the United Methodist Church in Buckingham.

Ray leaves behind his loving wife of sixty years Rhoda, of Buckingham; four children, Rhonda "Sis" (Jeff) Lowery of Buckingham, Ray (Anita) Thomas of Kankakee, Rob (Deb) Thomas of Lewisburg, Tennessee, and Ramie (Chad) Kolitwenzew of Bourbonnais; eleven grandchildren; nineteen great grandchildren; one brother, Robert "Bobby" Thomas of Dallas, North Carolina; three brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law, several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Ray proudly served his country as a member of the US Navy before working at the arsenal in Joliet. He eventually retired from Interstate Brands after twenty-six years when he then went on to work at About Frames in Stelle, IL.

Ray was a master at home repairs and problem solving. In addition to spending time with his family, Ray enjoyed playing pool, solving Sudoku puzzles, watching sports and old westerns, visiting the Joliet boats, and dancing at family celebrations.

Ray is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Ruth Fortenberry, his brothers Buddy Thomas and Donnie Thomas, his in-laws Henry and Leona Anderson, and his grandson Wesley Thomas.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, July 8th from 10:00 am until the time of the 1:00 pm funeral service at Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Interment will follow at Pilot Center Cemetery in Herscher.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

Cemetery Details

Pilot Center Cemetery

Herscher, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry for your loss praying for you all



JoAnn Hubbard - July 26, 2023 at 11:50 AM



“ *"Sending You an Angel" Statue Candle Holder with LED Candle to Express Sympathy was purchased for the family of Howard "Ray" Thomas Sr..*



July 03, 2023 at 04:47 PM



“ *Last weekend will forever be in my mind. I love you all so much. Deepest Condolences for you All.*



Charon Brown Dixon. - June 28, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ *Rhoda, so very sorry for your loss. Prayers for your strength during this difficult time.*

Karen A Carbonneau - June 28, 2023 at 01:10 PM

DL

“ Rhoda, my deepest sympathy to you and all your family on the recent loss of Ray Sr.



Debra Lambert - June 28, 2023 at 12:20 PM

CP

“ Charles, Carol, Chuck & Ken Phillips lit a candle in memory of Howard "Ray" Thomas Sr.



Charles, Carol, Chuck & Ken Phillips - June 28, 2023 at 10:23 AM

CA

“ There are so many memories, I can't choose! He helped us on so many projects around the house. He always was there to help us. Sending prayers and healing energy to his family and friends.

Cheryl Anderson - June 28, 2023 at 10:22 AM

PS

“ So sorry Rhoda. I know what you are going thru I have been there

Pa etling swearingen - June 27, 2023 at 10:08 PM

AH

“ So sorry to hear of this. Ray was a good guy. Real nice fella. Always backed Ray and Rob when we all played softball in Herscher. He will be greatly missed, aorry

Allen Hartman - June 27, 2023 at 09:17 PM

MD

“ Deepest sympathies to your family. Ray was a great guy.



Mary Coffman Dressler - June 27, 2023 at 08:45 PM

HL

“ Helen Lamping lit a candle in memory of Howard "Ray" Thomas Sr.



Helen Lamping - June 27, 2023 at 06:32 PM

HL

Rhoda and family, words cannot express my sorrow with the loss of Ray. Katie and I looked forward to our visits with you and Ray. You have many happy memories

Helen Lamping - June 27, 2023 at 06:34 PM

CP

Dear Rhoda and family, you are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. We have fond memories of times shared in Buckingham.

Charles, Carol, Chuck & Ken Phillips - June 28, 2023 at 10:31 AM

GM

“ Ray and Rhoda and George & Mary Myers raised our kids together in Buckingham as best friends. We Danced many many Firemen,s ball and New Years Eve parties at T Herscher Legion. They are also My Kathy,s God Parents. The Party is just beginning Ray, enjoy pain free from now on R I P Buddy❤️

George Myers - June 27, 2023 at 04:49 PM

BS

My deepest Sympathy to you Rhoda and all of your family. God gained a very special angel today. Sending love and hugs.

Barb and Steve Schneider - June 27, 2023 at 11:31 PM

LR

*Dear Rhoda and family,
My deepest sympathy to you. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

Laura Roney

Laura Roney - July 05, 2023 at 06:25 PM

DD

Dear Rhoda and family,

I remember your growing little family during my growing up years. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. May He surround you with His love and wrap His loving arms around you as you go through your sorrow. Love and prayers to you and yours.

Donna Howell-Denault

Donna R Denault - July 11, 2023 at 09:53 PM