



## Walter "Duane" Thomas

October 5, 1938 - January 22, 2021

Walter "Duane" Thomas, age 82, of Zephyrhills Florida, formerly of Kankakee, passed away Friday, January 22, 2021 at his home. He was born October 5, 1938 in Mackinaw, Illinois the son of Walter A. and Sylvia (Hughes) Thomas. Duane married Phyllis "June" Hicks on October 12, 1958 in Peoria. She preceded him in death on December 27, 2015. He then married Sondra Blodgett on November 26, 2016.

Duane retired from Heat and Frost Insulators Union Local #17 of Chicago in 1973. He later owned and operated Kankakee Insulation and General Insulation in Kankakee. He enjoyed golfing and traveling.

Duane was a member of the National Guard from 1957 through 1963.

Surviving is his wife, Sondra, of Zephyrhills, Florida; two sons and two daughters-in-law, Barry (Denise) Thomas of Cedar Lake, Indiana, Steven (Cheri) Thomas of Kankakee; two step-daughters, Rhonda Nicholson of New York, Heather Kota of Zephyrhills, Florida; one step son, Steve Kota of Cohocton, New York; one sister and three brothers-in-law, Carolyn (Ron) Craggs of Kilbourne, Illinois, David Price of Murphysboro, Tennessee, Keith Hicks of Metamora, Illinois; one brother and one-sister-in-law, Ronald (Jo) Thomas, Webster, Florida; surviving as well, are five grandchildren, Samantha (Trevor) Fishback of Lowell, Indiana, Leanna (Mike) Trnka of Cedar Lake,

Indiana, Morgan Thomas of Owosso, Michigan, Beau Thomas, and Jordon Thomas both of Kankakee, Illinois.

Duane is preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Marilyn; and one brother, Larry.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee. Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 1, 2021 at Schreffler Funeral Home, Kankakee. Reverend Scott Henley will officiate.

Interment will follow at Kankakee Memorial Gardens.

Memorials are to Family Wishes.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, face masks and social distancing will be required.

# Cemetery Details

## Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 South 3000 E. Rd.  
Kankakee, IL 60901

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 31. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Walter "Duane" Thomas*

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February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *I will always remember how deeply Uncle cared for others. His laughter will be missed by all. I will miss how he and his brother Ronnie teased each other - and how they tried to "one up" each other. A large portion of our family love has been taken, but that hole will be filled with warm memories. I take solace in that he is reunited with friends and loved ones on the other side.*

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**Pamela S Dubach** - January 31, 2021 at 07:02 PM



“ *I met Duane about eleven years ago in Kankakee. Duane was a very good man! He was kind and he was thoughtful. He was a generous man and I thank God for his generosity. Duane was one of the members of our church that had the responsibility of interviewing me and asking questions before I was selected to be the pastor of the Countryside Community Church of God in Limestone, IL. we formed great bond and friendship for the next ten years. Duane and June would often take me and my wife out to eat or just to have pie and coffee at Bakers Square. The last time we talked was in September of 2020 and after we concluded our conversation we ended the call with a "I Love You Brother". That was Duanes way of letting me know he valued our friendship. May God bless Sondra, Barry, Stephen and the entire family at this most difficult time. I Love You Brother!*

*Pastor Dennis Cornelous*

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**Dennis Cornelous** - January 30, 2021 at 09:24 PM



“ *My condolences to the Thomas family. I used to golf a lot with Duane and my dad at the Kankakee Country Club. Only guy I ever knew could stand at the base of a tree and hit the ball over it. We had re-connected with Face Book not too long ago. I really liked Duane and have missed him over the years. RIP my friend.*

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**Alan Webber** - January 30, 2021 at 12:47 PM



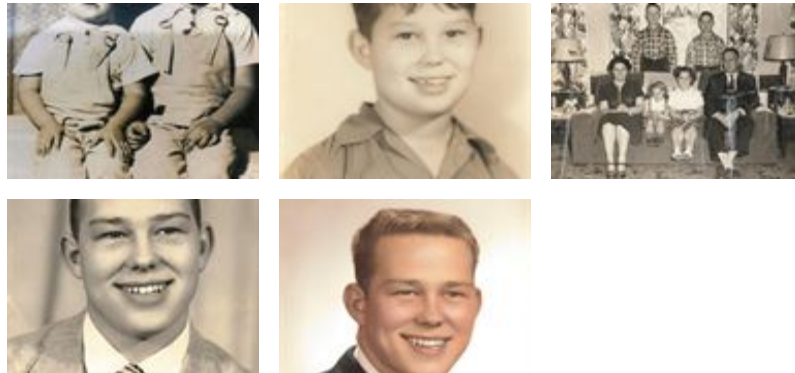
“ *This side of the Thomas family met Duane while looking up families. Found out how we were all related. He reminded me a lot of my older brother. We all looked forward to his and June's visits. Never a dull moment. I'll never forget them. Rest In Peace Duane.*

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**Joyce Lemmon** - January 29, 2021 at 01:32 PM



“ *58 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Schreffler Funeral Home** - January 29, 2021 at 10:25 AM