



## Frank Thomalla III

December 18, 1946 - March 31, 2021

Frank (“Doc” and/or “Tom”) Thomalla III, 74, of Louisiana, MO, passed away on March 31, 2021. A Memorial visitation will be held from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at the Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana, MO. Doc was born on December 18, 1946 in Decatur, IL to Frank Jr. and Thelma (O’Dell) Thomalla. Doc was larger than life and freer than most, living life on his own terms. He grew up in Decatur and later attended Miami University of Ohio and Illinois State University and graduated from Washington University School of Dentistry in St. Louis in 1973. Doc enjoyed hunting, fishing, all manner of outdoor activities, collecting firearms, target shooting, pyrotechnics, and caring for his land. He loved to play golf until his knees failed him, and then he loved to watch it. His family and friends enjoyed years of incredible homemade fireworks shows as he celebrated his favorite holiday – the 4th of July. Doc was a voracious reader, a storyteller, and an all-around Renaissance man. Nothing was outside of his skill set. He was at ease performing delicate surgery, doing plumbing, fixing cars, playing the guitar, or raising hay. His head, according to his wife, was full of useless knowledge, but he could make any story spellbinding, whether it was about the invention of dry socket paste, the woman who survived the sinking of the Titanic AND its sister ship the Britannic, or Rembrandt’s masterpiece “The Night Watch.” Above all else, though, Doc loved animals, mostly dogs. He was responsible for rescuing dozens and dozens of dogs over his life, either taking them in himself or finding homes for them. He also sponsored many animal welfare

organizations and other rescue organizations and individuals. If a dog was in trouble, he'd pull out his wallet and say "Save the dog." He also loved cats and made a home for One-Eyed Jack the cat, whom he found in a dumpster, despite already having (too) many dogs. Many times, he had a rescue dog recuperating on his sofa. He was also mindful of wildlife conservation, and as an avid hunter, understood the balance of the ecosystem of his beloved Missouri hills. He would even rescue garden snakes who found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. Doc was an Illinoisan by birth, but made Pike County Missouri his home of choice, opening his dental practice there in 1973. He practiced steadily in Louisiana, MO for over 45 years, only retiring at the end of 2020. He had a stream of loyal patients that sometimes drove for hours to continue as his clients. He traveled to Alaska, British Columbia, and South Dakota for hunting trips, and later traveled with his wife around the country, but always preferred being at home. He thought his grandchildren hung the moon and there was nothing he wouldn't do for his friends.

Doc is survived by his wife Mary, who he married on October 1, 2009. He is also survived by daughter Leah (Kelly) Gregory of Troy, IL; son Jason Thomalla of Benton, AR; stepsons Adam (Amber) Carpenter and Shawn (Kayla) Carpenter, both of Pleasant Hill, IL; and grandchildren Olivia and Finn Gregory, and Wade Lipcamon, Nash and Grayson Carpenter, Haylee Rodgers, Harley Miller, Henley Jones, and Hazelee Carpenter. He is survived by brothers Chris (Dale) Thomalla of Duluth, MN, Vince (Gail) Thomalla of Marshfield, WI, and Anthony A. (Zarina) Thomalla of MN and WY, and by many cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends. Rest in peace, Doc. There is much joy on the Rainbow Bridge today as all the pets he has loved over the years greet their old friend.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to an animal rescue organization in Doc's memory, such as the Northeast Missouri Humane Society, the Effingham County (IL) Humane Society, or any other group that helps animals.



# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

APR 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Collier Funeral Homes, Inc.  
117 Barnard Dr  
Louisiana, MO 63353  
(573) 754-4800  
collierfuneral@att.net

# Tribute Wall



“ *Frank Thomalla III*

November 08, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ *Frank Thomalla III*

November 08, 2022 at 08:46 AM



“ *Noney Martin lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III*



**Noney Martin** - August 19, 2022 at 11:36 PM



“ *The time we shot up our old chicken coop at the outer edge of Elsberry City limits with the HK was definitely one of many great memories shared. Thanks for being a family friend and great dentist for 4 generations of we Cunninghams. We Love You Doc! RIP!*

**David Cunningham** - April 08, 2021 at 07:51 PM

LB

“ I have known Dr. Thomalla since I was at least 7 or 8 years old. He was of course my dentist forever! He was the smartest man I knew. He told me stories every time I had an appointment, usually about his grandchildren. I'm glad I got to see him a few weeks ago at County Market and let him how much I loved him and was praying for him. I will miss his so much!

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**Lisa Brown** - April 08, 2021 at 06:22 PM

DR

I used to play with Tom in the neighborhood when we were kids, then reconnected when our daughter & his son were besties. Great family, so sorry JT & your entire family, you are in my thoughts & prayers. Hugs

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**Donna Reinhardt** - April 24, 2021 at 12:21 PM

BJ

“ I can't pick one memory of Doc that stands out. He was just always there in his office next to PJ's where he would pop in to say hi or tell us a story. My favorites always involved his grandson Finn. He was so proud of him and loved to compare him to my boys.

Doc was kind, generous and a sweet soul. He gave to others more than we know and I will miss him terribly. Rest In Peace Doc and know you will be missed.

He was one of the smartest people I've known and I am thankful he is at peace and there is no more pain 💕



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**Becky Jones** - April 07, 2021 at 09:27 PM

DB

“ *Dr Thomalla I first met while minister at Trinity Lutheran church across from his practice and became a patient in 1988 till his retirement last year. He was a gentle soul and always appreciate his wit and loved the paintings in his practice. My last contact was us both voting November last year. I very much agree that he had a storehouse of information and always made me smile. I am sad that age and illness led to his retirement last year. My prayers for his wife and all of his family. Normally my comfort is ‘God’s speed and God’s blessings!’ But as Tevia in Fiddler on the Roof for Frank ‘To Life Le Heim!’ May I live with as much care for others as Dr Frank Thomalla gave!*

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**David Brummond** - April 06, 2021 at 06:16 PM

LF

“ *Love, Chris, Vince, Tony and families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Frank Thomalla III.*



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**Love, Chris, Vince, Tony and families** - April 06, 2021 at 03:14 PM

TM

“ *What a Great guy Will be missed by many. Loved him to pieces. Great friend*

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**Teresa Mowen** - April 05, 2021 at 10:32 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Frank Thomalla III.*



April 05, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ *Tom White purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Frank Thomalla III.*



**Tom White** - April 05, 2021 at 05:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Thomalla III.*



April 05, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ *Gerald & Phyllis Gregory Sr, Gerald Gregory Jr purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Frank Thomalla III.*



**Gerald & Phyllis Gregory Sr, Gerald Gregory Jr** - April 05, 2021 at 02:08 PM

BS

“ *Becky Raney Sanderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Frank Thomalla III*



Becky Raney Sanderson - April 04, 2021 at 09:45 AM

CD

“ *So sorry for your loss. Nice man*

Cynthia I drew - April 03, 2021 at 08:32 PM

PB

“ *We are so saddened to hear about “Doc” Thomalla passing. Prayers for Mary and all his family. Will miss seeing him out and about and his funny comments. Rest In Peace! Phyllis and Fred Bridwell*



Phyllis Bridwell - April 03, 2021 at 01:13 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Thomalla III.*



April 03, 2021 at 11:09 AM

WH

“ WANDA HUNTER lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III



WANDA HUNTER - April 03, 2021 at 10:44 AM

RA

“ Frank was a great man and denist . He did dental surgery on me number of times and it was always successful.. my heart goes out to his family ...God bless you and give you peace ,Ron and Rita Auwarter



Rita Auwarter - April 03, 2021 at 10:16 AM

EL

“ Elenora Lobb lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III

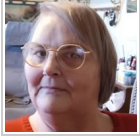


Elenora Lobb - April 03, 2021 at 10:15 AM

CP

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to the family at this difficult time. I have quite a few fond memories with Doc as my mother worked for him in the few years we lived in Louisiana. A good man and good friend to my late mother whom will be greatly missed by many.

Cory Perkins - April 03, 2021 at 09:53 AM



“ So very sorry for the family's loss, sending prayers to Heaven to have Angels to watch over your family in the coming days. He was the best dentist Louisiana will ever have in my opinion.



Lawanda Willis - April 03, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ Karen Funk lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III



Karen Funk - April 03, 2021 at 07:46 AM



“ Doc was one of a kind. Lived his jokes to break up the nervousness of him pulling a tooth. Great Man. Will be missed by many 🙏❤️



Tammi Ries-McPike - April 03, 2021 at 12:14 AM



That's loved

Tammi Ries-McPike - April 03, 2021 at 12:16 AM



What a wonderful obituary for a truly great guy. He will be missed. Phil and Joy Cleaver

Joy Cleaver - April 03, 2021 at 05:43 PM

SP

“ *Sherry Pitzer lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III*



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**Sherry Pitzer** - April 02, 2021 at 09:22 PM

RB

“ *Rob Brown lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III*



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**Rob Brown** - April 02, 2021 at 06:59 PM

RB

*What a wonderful person he was. He always had an interesting story to tell while he worked on whatever problem I was having him fix. Always found myself wishing the appointment took longer so I could hear more. He will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.*

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**Rob Brown** - April 02, 2021 at 07:07 PM

JO

“ Tom was truly a compassionate, fun, larger than life guy. And we, his maternal cousins, all enjoyed him, loved him and are deeply saddened by his passing.

We pray that our great God will sustain, comfort, help, and always be with the family of Tom and all who loved him.

Tom enriched every life he encountered ...human, canine, and all Gods creatures.

God Bless You

God Give You Peace,

And as we move through this Holy Weekend 2021, may the Love of Christ fill your heart, and Spirit with comfort.

Jo Anne ODell

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**Jo Anne ODell** - April 02, 2021 at 06:54 PM

GW

“ Gloria Worley lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III



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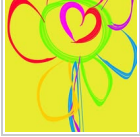
**Gloria Worley** - April 02, 2021 at 06:13 PM

GW

He was always so happy and always laughing. We knew we where in good hands With Dr. Thomalla.111. He will be missed. Sending prayers for his family and friends.

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**Gloria Worley** - April 02, 2021 at 06:17 PM



“ *Donna Korte Wiss lit a candle in memory of Frank Thomalla III*



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**Donna Korte Wiss** - April 02, 2021 at 05:30 PM