



Jay Smith Thomas III

May 11, 1948 - May 18, 2019

Jay Smith Thomas III was born in Pittsfield, Ill. on May 11, 1948. The son of Jay II and Martha Thomas, he shared his childhood with his older sister Jan and younger sisters Ann and Joy in Louisiana, MO. Jay passed away peacefully in his home on May 18, 2019, with his loving wife of 46 years, Debbie, by his side. Jay is survived by his wife Deborah Thomas of Louisiana; sisters Jan Thomas (Cameron) of Murfreesboro, IL.; Ann Narramore of Louisiana; and Joy Cleaver (Philip) Edmond, OK.; children Jay Thomas IV (Irma), Louisiana; Molly McDaniels (Ryan), of Jefferson City, MO.; and Rachel Moses (John), of Liberty, MO. He is also survived by eight grandchildren: Karyme, Grace, Isabella, Natalie, William, Matthew, Andrew, and Mia; and five nieces and five nephews. He graduated from Louisiana High School in 1966 and earned a bachelor's degree from William Jewell College in Liberty in 1970, where he was active in the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Jay married Deborah J. Jones on July 29, 1972, in Liberty, and they settled in Louisiana to raise their three children. He joined Thomas Insurance,

the family business founded in 1955 by his parents. He was also a licensed real estate broker and took great pride in the business, and valued the relationships he formed over the years.

He will be remembered by the many whose lives he touched as a gentle man with a huge heart to match his smile. He found deep personal fulfillment in helping others

and seeing them succeed. He exhibited these qualities as a businessman, affectionate father and father-in-law, grandfather, uncle, loving husband, and friend. He had a spirit of spontaneity and a good sense of humor.

He enjoyed coaching little league baseball for his children's teams. He was an avid

reader. He enjoyed boating on the Mississippi River, seeking adventure, and the thrill of white-water rafting.

Jay enjoyed selling insurance alongside his father and mother, as well as buying

and selling real estate and managing rental properties. He had a passion for restoring homes, and was a founding member of the Louisiana Historic Preservation Association. He was also a member of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Louisiana. In his later years, Jay took a special interest in the

Hispanic community, teaching himself Spanish and assisting local immigrants to

connect and thrive in the community. Jay never knew a stranger, and the hallmarks

of his life were generosity, kindness, and selflessness.

Jay is preceded in death by his parents Jay Smith Thomas II and Martha Atwood

Thomas of Louisiana; brother-in-law Jerry Jo Narramore of Louisiana, and mother-

in-law Donna Jones of Jefferson City, MO.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at

the Centenary United Methodist Church in Louisiana. A memorial service will immediately follow.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Louisiana Historic Preservation Association or Centenary United Methodist Church of Louisiana.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Centenary United Methodist Church
691 S Carolina St
Louisiana, MO 63353
(573) 754-4412

Tribute Wall

LB

“ After connecting with Jay IV via Facebook, I have just discovered that Jay III, passed away years ago. I am so very sorry that our family was unaware. We loved Jay II and Martha and all of the kids and enjoyed our occasional visits through the years as our dads were great army buddies. Our heartfelt condolences to all of Jay’s family and friends. I am positive that Louisiana is a little dimmer with Jay’s light.

Leisa G Blackwell - June 27, 2025 at 11:58 PM



“ Jay Smith Thomas III

November 08, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ Jay Smith Thomas III

November 08, 2022 at 08:46 AM

SP

“ Sending many thoughts and prayers for the family. Love, Sherri & Don Patrick

Sherri Patrick - June 08, 2019 at 06:21 AM

BE

“ Brandy Richards And Paul Elliott sent a virtual gift in memory of Jay Smith Thomas III



Brandy Richards and Paul Elliott - June 05, 2019 at 07:06 PM

KF

“ *Kristi Freeman lit a candle in memory of Jay Smith Thomas III*



kristi Freeman - June 05, 2019 at 01:12 PM

SS

“ *Debbie you are in my thoughts and prayers Sonja (Welch) Scherff*



Sonja Scherff - May 25, 2019 at 11:38 PM

CO

“ *Cindy Poyser Osborne lit a candle in memory of Jay Smith Thomas III*



Cindy Poyser Osborne - May 24, 2019 at 08:36 PM

 Tammi Ries-McPike

“ *Tammi Ries-McPike lit a candle in memory of Jay Smith Thomas III*



Tammi Ries-McPike - May 23, 2019 at 11:44 AM

KS

“ *Kathy R Shrum lit a candle in memory of Jay Smith Thomas III*



kathy r shrum - May 23, 2019 at 05:17 AM

BW

“ *We wish the entire Thomas family the very best during this tough time. Big Jay will be deeply missed. Please know that each of you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Brian and Heather White

Brian White - May 21, 2019 at 10:07 AM

LW

“ *My heart, my deepest sympathy and my prayers go out to the entire Thomas family. I pray that as time passes, the deep sadness of your loss is replaced with peace.*

Lisa Watts

Lisa Watts - May 21, 2019 at 09:10 AM

JH

Asking God to give Comfort to the entire Family at this time, Its hard but just try to think of all of the Memories that you have, God Bless

Joanne Hammuck - May 21, 2019 at 12:32 PM

PM

Many great times with the Thomas's. Jay was such a fun loving guy and we always enjoyed out times together. Debbie, you will be ok. Never the same, but you will be fine, as I know your faith will carry you through this. We are keeping you in our prayers.

Charlie and Peggy Meyer

Peggy Meyer - May 21, 2019 at 09:26 PM

DC

I want to add my words of sympathy to the Thomas family. May God give you comfort and understanding of His love during this time. D. Randall Cone

D. Randall Cone - May 27, 2019 at 07:34 PM

KE

Our sympathy and prayers to the Thomas family. So sorry for your loss. Ken & Carolyn Evec

Ken & Carolyn Evec - June 06, 2019 at 09:59 PM