



Willie Ray Thomas

August 10, 1947 - June 27, 2022

OIB, NC: Willie "Ray" Thomas, a.k.a Superman, age 74, went to be with his Lord and Savior peacefully in his home at Ocean Isle Beach, NC on Monday, June 26th, 2022.

Ray was born August 10th, 1947, in Macon County, NC to the late Porter and Ethel Thomas. He was preceded in death by seven siblings and his sons, Jeff and Jake Thomas.

Ray was a Vietnam War Veteran for the United States Marine Corps and serving his country was an achievement that he considered to be of highest honor. When he returned home from Vietnam, he continued his dedication to serving and protecting by working as a Sheriff's deputy in Macon and surrounding counties. Later, he earned a degree in Occupational Health where he served 30 years as an Environmental Health Specialist until his retirement from the State.

He was a lover of all things nature and enjoyed spending many hours taking long walks up and down the beach to find treasure or, as he said, wasting money on a golf course. He stood firm in his beliefs and never backed down but his witty humor, infectious laugh, and willingness to always give is what makes him unforgettable.

Ray is survived by his daughter of the home, Christie Slagle (Charles). Five grandchildren: Bree Sanders of Whiteville NC, Nathaniel Thomas of Columbia SC, Zachary Ward of North Myrtle Beach SC and Mackenzie and Taylor Thomas of Franklin NC. Three great-grandchildren: Braxton, Jack and Sailor Turner of Whiteville, NC. Four siblings: Thelma Carpenter, Lonnie Thomas (Dianne), Katie Rowand (Mitchell) and Earl Thomas (Pat) all of Franklin, NC. He was also blessed with his "sweet pea" of 11 years, Brenda Kans of Ocean Isle Beach along with countless friends and acquaintances all along the East Coast.

Paying their final respects in one of the highest honors, the pallbearers are: Nathaniel Thomas, Zachary Ward, Taylor Thomas, James Turner, Shannon Knitie and Daniel

Sanders. Honorary bearers are Eddie Collins and Brandon Ledford.

Funeral services will be held at Liberty Baptist Church in Franklin, NC on July 10th, 2022, at 2 p.m. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Rev. Don Moffitt will officiate. VFW 7339, American Legion 108 and the US Marine Corp will provide military honors. There will also be a celebration of life in the weeks to come in Brunswick County, NC, where he resided.

The family will receive friends starting at 1:15 pm.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to Moffitt Family Funeral Care.

Moffitt Family Funeral care is honored to serve Ray's family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Liberty Baptist Church
1421 Ned Hill Rd
Franklin, NC 28734

Funeral Service

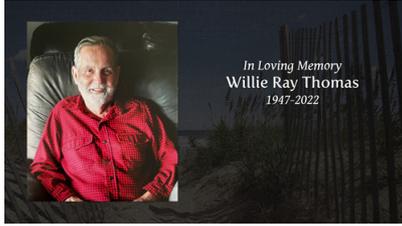
JUL 10. 2:00 PM (ET)

Liberty Baptist Church
1421 Ned Hill Rd
Franklin, NC 28734

Tribute Wall



“ *Moffitt Family Funeral Care created a Tribute Video in memory of Willie Ray Thomas*



Moffitt Family Funeral Care - July 11 at 08:46 AM

JF

Love you Ray. Its hard to believe

Jerry Farmer - September 10 at 07:01 AM

BJ

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Ray when I started work at the Brunswick County Heath Department in 1999. He helped train me and was one of the funniest people I have ever met. He use to make me cry with laughter over the stories he would share from his childhood. He always had a smile on his face. I will always have the fondest memories of him. Rest easy my friend.*

Bobbie Johnson - July 07 at 08:06 PM

EC

“ *Eddie Collins lit a candle in memory of Willie Ray Thomas*



Eddie Collins - July 06 at 08:23 PM

CB

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Connie Burke - July 06 at 12:05 PM

JC

“ From the family of Darrell, Janice and Jason Coltrane we send our deepest sympathy and prayers that the family finds peace in this difficult time. Mom always thought of Ray as another brother and loved him just as much and now they are together walking the streets of gold in no pain and watching over all of us. He will be truly missed.

Jason and Darrell Coltrane.

Jason Coltrane - July 05 at 08:19 PM

DW

“ So long Superman! You and I spent many years together at Tamassee and I didn't even know that we were cousins. I had wondered why your grand mother Leone had invited me to share Sunday dinner with you all one time when your family came to visit you at Tamassee. I found out later that she and my grand mother Ellen were sisters. I remember you as always being a kind and positive person and I am sure that you will be greatly missed.

Dover Williams, Fairbanks Alaska.

Dover Williams - July 03 at 03:04 AM



“ Phoebe Hastings lit a candle in memory of Willie Ray Thomas



Phoebe Hastings - July 01 at 02:47 PM

TC

I would like to light a candle also but can't find I remember when he and TT was married and I remember them bringing Jake home from hospital I that little house he was a nice looking man I do remember that

Tammy Earlene Crowley - July 03 at 10:14 AM

WT

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family. I will miss our “cousin” talks. Wayne Thomas

Wayne and Bonnie Thomas - July 01 at 10:06 AM



“ I will miss my dearest friend. So thankful for the time we shared together at Tamassee DAR as small kids.He became my best friend on the very first day I arrived.Also thankful for our time last year at July 4th week. We were able to catch up and spend some time together. He named me" Caveman". My best friend. Ken Wilson, Easley, SC



Nancy Wilson - June 30 at 06:25 PM

TL

“ Tami Ledford lit a candle in memory of Willie Ray Thomas



Tami Ledford - June 30 at 05:49 PM

FD

“ Thinking of the Thomas family with love and prayers. Norris and Frances Davis.

Frances Davis and Norris Davis - June 30 at 05:21 PM

MC

“ Moffitt Family Funeral Care lit a candle in memory of Willie Ray Thomas



Moffitt Family Funeral Care - June 30 at 04:19 PM

DP

Will truly miss cousin Ray. I hate he left us so soon before we could see each other.

Dearl Prince - July 01 at 11:55 AM

CB

I will miss you Uncle. You were a hero to me in many ways. I will miss you being a phone call away. Love you bunches. Enjoy your reunion in heaven. Connie

Connie Burke - July 06 at 11:26 AM

EC

I will truly miss you Marine (brother). We had a lot of good times together.

Eddie Collins - July 06 at 08:32 PM

JS

I have had the honor to be Mr. Ray's neighbor for the last year. Mr. Ray was a good man, always checking on me. His waves from the window will be missed. Prayers for his family.

Jennifer Sellers - July 09 at 08:48 AM