



John Kirkland Thomas

January 31, 1935 - November 16, 2013

Mr. John Kirkland Thomas passed away on Saturday, November 16, 2013 following an extended illness. He was surrounded by his family at home. He was born on January 31, 1935 in Troup County, Ga. He was the only child of Sophie Dial Thomas and Lee Alga Thomas. He was the grandson of Jennie Bevis Dial and Joseph Franklin Dial and Maggie Williams Thomas and Virgil Lee Thomas. John's roots to Coweta County extend to its earliest days. His great-great grandfather moved to the Welcome community in 1843. From that point on, each generation of the Dial family was born in Coweta.

John was a loving husband of 48 years to his devoted wife, Jean. Together they raised their four daughters, guiding and supporting them in their individual endeavors and serving as Christian examples. Family was of utmost importance to John, and he cherished times together with immediate and extended family. He enjoyed sharing his experiences and always had a humorous story to tell. John was a great communicator and was always able to connect with people from all walks of life. He enjoyed strong and enduring friendships with many people.

A child of the Great Depression, John and his family had little in material wealth. However, they enjoyed a simple way of life: hunting, fishing, and farming. John's earliest days were filled with memories of family, Grand Ole Opry on the radio, and simple meals. As a child and young man, he learned about sacrifice and overcoming adversity.

John was baptized on May 7, 1950, at First Baptist Church, Hogansville, Ga.

John attended Hogansville High School and was voted most intellectual of his senior class. He was an Honor Graduate of the class of 1953 and a member of the Beta Club and Track Team.

John learned the value of hard work from an early age. He started his first official job in 1951 at Colonial Stores in Hogansville. He was employed at the Kroger Company from 1954 to 1965. John's career with Kroger brought him to Newnan in 1955. He also worked at First National Bank in downtown Newnan.

John had a lifelong love of learning. Although his economic circumstances prevented him from becoming a traditional college student, he was able to enroll in West Georgia College in 1961, at the age of 26. He graduated in 1965 with a degree in psychology, having worked his way through school.

Upon graduation from West Georgia, John taught at Western High School for the 1965-1966 school year, where he was selected Western's STAR Teacher.

He counted among his friends many former students. He was active in educational organizations, serving as Vice President of the Coweta Education Association and as a member of the Parent Teacher Association. He made an unsuccessful bid for School Board in the 1960s. Once his children were school-aged, he continued his involvement in education by serving as President of the Parent-Teacher Organization at Elm Street School.

In 1966, John began a 20-year career at American Can Company, later James River Corporation. He worked in various positions, from customer service to quality control. He worked as an Industrial Engineer and as a scheduler.

In 1985, John began a new phase of his career by becoming a restaurateur. He became owner of Wishbone Fried Chicken. In that role, he enjoyed running his own business, greeting customers, and working with his family.

John was active in local politics. He served on the City of Newnan's Board of Zoning and Appeals, being named Member Emeritus of that board in 1998.

He was Co-Chairman of the Coweta Democratic Party in 1976. In that capacity, he travelled to Washington, D.C., to witness Georgia's Jimmy Carter's inauguration.

John was elected Deacon at Providence Baptist Church in 1964. He was

actively involved in that congregation, serving in various leadership positions. John and Jean joined First Baptist Church, Newnan in 1969 where they and their four daughters developed many relationships and grew in their faith. John met his future wife, Jean Shoffeitt, in 1963. They married on June 6, 1965, in Auburn, Ala. They were proud parents to four daughters: Sandra Lynne, Mary Beth, Carol Leigh, and Jennifer Kay. As a busy husband and father, John always made time for his girls, including them in family decisions and instilling in them his and Jean's work ethic. He was a good provider for his family, working hard at the many jobs he held over the years. He was involved in many entrepreneurial opportunities, including real estate.

The family appreciates Dr. Stan Smith's compassion as he managed John's care for the last fifteen years. Also, the family thanks the many caregivers, especially Tonya White, Carol Herring, Rosemarie Bass, and Carol Parks for their dedication. In addition, the family acknowledges Jan Pence and Affinis Hospice for their devotion.

John Kirkland Thomas is survived by his wife, Jean Shoffeitt Thomas, of Newnan; daughters and sons-in-law, Sandi and Jim Moody of Peachtree City, Beth and Lee Barnett of Newnan, Carol and Robert Cantrell of Newnan, and Kay and Ryan Wilson of Seneca, S.C.; grandchildren, Rebecca Lauren and Ashley Claire Moody, Thomas Clark and Jackson Cline Barnett, John Robert and Jacob Thomas Cantrell, and Jenna Lynn, Mary Brooks, and Turner Law Wilson.

Condolences can be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013, from 6-8 p.m. at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson St, Newnan. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary of First Baptist Church, Newnan, with Dr. Jimmy Patterson and Dr. Ryan Wilson officiating. A private interment will take place at Oak Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that those desiring may make donations in John's memory to the Benevolence Committee of First Baptist Church, Newnan, 15

West Washington Street, Newnan, Ga. 30263.

McKoon Funeral Home (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

NOV **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan
15 West Washington Street
Newnan, GA 30264
(770) 253-0797
info@fbcnewnan.org
<http://www.fbcnewnan.org>

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Dear Jean and family, I am thinking about you and sorry for your loss. I hope you and you family find comfort and strength in the wonderful memories you have shared over the years.

Brenda Strane - November 26, 2013 at 08:34 AM

ST

“ Susie and I send our deepest sympathy to a loving caring family. YourConstant care after John's debilitating illness shows how deeply you,Jean and Carol and the other sisters we didn't knowwas a result of the lessons of love of family and fellow man. A husband and father of this quality surely loved and served god and his family. Our deepest sympathy. Susie and Dr. Jimmy

Susie and jimmy Thomasson - November 20, 2013 at 07:50 PM

RM

“ Carol and Kay, we are sorry to hear of your father passing, our thoughts and prayers are with your famlies at this time

ray mcknight - November 20, 2013 at 04:53 PM

MJ

“ Jean and Family, Estelle and I were saddened to read today of your great loss. John was a good friend and it was my honor to serve with him on various Boards over the years. He will be missed greatly by us all.

Malcolm Jackson - November 20, 2013 at 12:41 PM

RA

“ Miss Jean, Carol, Sandi, Kay and Beth, how very sorry we are for your loss but what a wonderful blessing to have had Mr John in your life. As you process through the next weeks without him, please take great comfort of him resting in the arms of his Father. Thank the Lord for that promise. We will be praying for you all during the holiday season especially. God bless you all.

Rip & Diann Alford - November 20, 2013 at 08:42 AM

CB

“ Jean and girls, So sorry for your loss, but know that Mr. John is healed and running through heaven! He and Mr. Jim are chatting it up for sure. Prayers for you as you deal with his passing. <3

Cindy Bowles - November 19, 2013 at 04:32 PM

KH

“ Dear Jean and Family - We are saddened to hear about John's passing. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May God hold you up during this difficult time. Kaye and Mike

Kaye Redmon Holland - November 19, 2013 at 12:54 PM

EF

“ Oh, Jean, what a beautiful well written obituary. I didn't know a lot about John, but I know a lot about a merciful God, so I knew how to pray! I love you. Ellie

Ellie Farrington - November 19, 2013 at 09:03 AM

GH

“ I am so sorry to hear of John passing. Our prayers are with all the of you. I worked with John at American can and really adore him as a friend and co worker. He will surely be missed.

Grady Hancock - November 19, 2013 at 07:08 AM

KB

“ So sorry to hear the sad news. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kathy Barnett - November 18, 2013 at 08:54 PM

JB

“ Jean and Carol and sweet family, I know if I knew your husband and father as you knew him, I would have loved him because kindness and goodness flourish in the two of you. I do wish I was able to meet this great man. You'll just have to talk about him so we can all enjoy the love he so graciously passed on through you all. My entire family wish for God's love to shine on all of you and lighten your sadness Love to your whole family, Janice and Family

Janice Boulet - November 18, 2013 at 08:28 PM

BW

“ Our heartfelt thoughts are with you and your family at this time.

Bobby and Geraldine Welch - November 18, 2013 at 04:33 PM

BW

“ Our heartfelt thoughts are with you and your family at this time.

Bobby and Geraldine Welch - November 18, 2013 at 04:33 PM

ML

“ As a former student of Mr. Thomas's from Western High- he remained one of my favorites. We were so proud he chose to come to our Western School reunions and remembered us all with smiles and hugs. We will miss him and were proud to call him a Western Eagle..

Miriam Moore Horton Lanier - November 18, 2013 at 12:39 PM

JC

“ Jean you and the Girls are example for all of us through your loving care of John all these years. Although we are saddened by John's passing, we also rejoice that He is now at home with his Savior. We have God's assurance John has no more pain and suffering. We will always remember the good times we had with you, John, and the girls. We regret we cannot be with you at this time. May God comfort and sustain you in your time of grief. 1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. Ro 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. John will always be remembered. With all our love Jim, Dot, Cindy, Connie

Jim, Dot Culpepper and Cindy & Connie - November 18, 2013 at 10:58 AM

BB

“ I'm so sorry to hear the news. Sure loved that man!

Becky Hartley Bright - November 18, 2013 at 08:54 AM

BH

“ Mrs. Thomas and the Girls, Luke and I are very sorry to hear of Mr. John's passing. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Luke and Beth Headley

Beth Headley - November 18, 2013 at 08:54 AM

CT

“ Jean, Sandi, Beth, Kay and Carol, I'm so sadden to hear the passing of your sweet husband, father, I always loved John and the family, When I worked for you all I felt like I was part of the family, You all made every one feel welcome, I know you are going to miss John so much, But just think of the brand new glorified body and perfect body John has now, I'm sure he is walking the Streets of gold and talking to the loved ones, I pray for comfort and healing to you all as no one can give that but our almighty GOD, My thoughts and prayers are for this sweet loving family that only GOD can give to you all, Love you all, Cindy Thompson

Cindy McCullough Thompson - November 18, 2013 at 01:31 AM

DO

“ Jean and Girls, Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. John was fortunate to have you that took such good care of him. I know he will be missed. In Sympathy & Friendsip

Debbie Olmstead - November 17, 2013 at 09:28 PM

BS

“ Jean and Girls So sorry for your loss. All of you can be commended for the way you took care of john. If I can be of any help, please let me know. Love all of you.

Brenda Schloemer - November 17, 2013 at 05:14 PM