



Dennis R. Thomas

February 3, 1947 - February 19, 2020

Dennis Raymond Thomas entered heaven on February 19, 2020 at the age of 73. We are sad because he touched our lives deeply but will always cherish the memories of his infectious laugh, his enthusiasm and his gentle, kind soul.

He was the son of Raymond Eugene and Anna Louise Greenwell Thomas. Dennis was born in Evansville, Indiana on February 3, 1947.

He grew up with his brother Terry Thomas now of Lexington, Ky and his sister Mary Anne Thomas of Evansville, In.

Dennis attended St. Ben's Grade School, Memorial High School, and UE where he graduated with a degree in PE and US history.

On Oct. 2, 1982, Dennis married Janie Herrenbruck Thomas. They would have celebrated their 38th anniversary this year.

Dennis has a daughter, Jamie Blackbourne and a grandson Keane. Dennis and Janie have a son Matthew Thomas, his wife Ann and 4 grandchildren, Emma, Ben, Kate, and Will. Being a Popa to his grandchildren was one of his greatest delights.

Dennis taught PE and American History at St Ben's, worked as an instructor at the EARC, and finished his career at the Evansville State Hospital where he

was a rehab therapist and taught CPI classes for 23 years. Throughout his time with EARC and the State Hospital, Dennis coached many Special Olympic teams in basketball, baseball and track leading several teams to win State championships.

Sports was a passion in Dennis's life. He spent many years officiating high school basketball and football and made many friends throughout that time. When those seasons ended, he spent his time umpiring, coaching and running Baseball leagues. One of the highlights of Dennis's sports career came in high school when he broke the undefeated record of another school's tennis player leaving Dennis with the distinction of being the only person who could claim a win over him during his 4 years of high school tennis.

After retiring he enjoyed spending mornings at the Donut Bank swapping memories and stories with his friends, following the Atlanta Braves and Boston Celtics, and being the kind, gentle, funny man that we all will greatly miss.

We would like to offer a special thanks to those who helped care for Dennis and helped him enjoy his life as much as possible after his diagnosis with Lewy Body Dementia. Thank you to Hollie Newsham his protector, special friend and person who helped him enjoy his life more as his abilities slipped away. Thanks to Jim Herrenbruck for being his best buddy, sports companion and the guy he could always confide in and count on.

To the staff at Jasper Memorial Hospital Caring Hands Unit, no words could express our thanks for your caring, compassionate and all-consuming care during Dennis's stays with you. To Olivia Taylor, you were and are a gift from God in our lives. You approach your patients with determination and love working ceaselessly to find the answers to their issues created by Dementia. And to AseraCare Hospice, thank you for your compassionate care for Dennis during his final days on earth. We especially want to thank Julia Pettijohn for

your giving loving heart and care for not just Dennis but for our family also.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 8:00 pm on Friday, February 28, 2020 at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street. There will be a brief visitation time at 10:30am preceding the funeral which will be held at 11:00 am at Olivet Presbyterian Church on Oakhill Road officiated by Pastor Dave Mills and Pastor Tyrone Edwards.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Special Olympic Fund of Evansville IN. or to the Challenger Baseball League of Evansville.IN

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Poseyville Cemetery

Poseyville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN

Visitation

FEB 29. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Olivet Presbyterian Church
5600 Oak Hill Road
Evansville, IN

funeral

FEB 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Olivet Presbyterian Church
5600 Oak Hill Road
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dennis R. Thomas*



Pierre Funeral Home - February 26, 2020 at 02:16 PM



“ *Dennis R. Thomas*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Janie and family, I am so sorry to hear of Dennis' passing. He was always a kind and caring man every time I had the pleasure of speaking with him. Please know that I will continue to keep you and your family in my prayers. - Jennifer McMahon, Carroll and Annette's old caregiver.*

Jenny McMahon - March 07, 2020 at 09:49 AM

KM

“ Dennis and his brother, Terry, were neighborhood friends of mine. We played lots of basketball, baseball, and football with other kids in the neighborhood. Also, Dennis and I played three years together on the Memorial High School tennis team. Dennis excelled at tennis, and he was always a formidable challenge for me on the tennis court. I will always have fond memories of Dennis. Ken Macke.

Kenneth Macke - March 04, 2020 at 05:37 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis R. Thomas.



February 29, 2020 at 05:26 PM

MM

“ I still remember the day many years ago that I offered Dennis a job at Evansville State Hospital and he accepted. I was excited that he would be joining the staff and sharing his vast skills and life experiences with those who were in great need of someone with his talents and personality. He was always the gentleman; tolerant, patient, caring, and positive in all of his interactions with the staff and patients. The diversity of his contributions in working with the mentally ill touched many, many lives. He was also a friend and I am fortunate that he touched my life as well. My condolences go to Janie the family.

Mark Majors - February 28, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis R. Thomas.*



February 27, 2020 at 11:01 PM



“ *Janie and Jim, So sorry for your loss, it sounds like he was a wonderful man. Prayers for your family.*

Lynn Esche Griffin - February 26, 2020 at 08:38 PM



“ *234 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - February 26, 2020 at 02:02 PM

SG

“ To the family of Dennis Thomas,

Dennis had been a long-time friend since 1973, when he and I, along with Bill Nimnicht, Dennis Racster, and Kirk Freeman formed the Evansville Baseball Association which is still in existence today. A bunch of youngsters who decided not to be a part of the softball organization baby boomers on a mission.

I had the privilege of knowing Dennis and umpiring tons of baseball games with him. Regardless of which sport he was officiating, he had intimate knowledge of the rules and ALWAYS gave 110 % effort, the same he gave in all walks of life. His demeanor, laughter, and dedication helped all the people he met along his journey cut way too short. We need more people in this world, especially now, like Dennis.

My condolences to the family in your time of sorrow, and rest assured he is now enjoying his heavenly reward. Someday, my brother, we will meet again and umpire in peace.

*Stephen C. Gubler
Port Charlotte, FL*

stephen gubler - February 25, 2020 at 05:19 PM

JT

Thank you for sharing this. Dennis was very proud of all of the sports he participated in. Your comments are very special to me. Janie Thomas

Janie Thomas - February 27, 2020 at 09:50 PM

SA

“ I had the pleasure of growing up with Dennis, Terry, and Mary Ann on East Illinois Street in Evansville, IN. What warm and wonderful memories. My prayers are with you all for the loss of Dennis.



Sandy Eakins Appler - February 24, 2020 at 02:58 PM

JV

“ Dennis:
We all have the same promise " I will see you again " . I will miss you until then.
jack vieira



jack vieira - February 24, 2020 at 01:42 PM

RA

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dennis at Evansville State Hospital. I never met a kinder soul. His song may have ended...but his melody will play on.--Rich Allen

RICHARD C ALLEN - February 24, 2020 at 06:25 AM

AH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Mr. Thomas was one of the best teachers from St. Ben's. What a amazing man.

Alisha Moore Howard - February 24, 2020 at 04:23 AM



“ Absolute favorite teacher ever--- had him for PE and history at St. Ben's. Truly a great man who will be missed--- condolences to his family.

Laura Stephenson - February 23, 2020 at 08:34 PM

PH

“ I worked with Dennis at esh for years. I will miss his laugh and his dedication to the job. My prayers to all the family

Paula H

paula Hurst - February 23, 2020 at 08:07 PM

PK

“ Dennis was a gentle spirit. His kind and warm personality never met a stranger. He loved a little coffee with his cream and sugar. And he always ordered desert before his meal. Especially if it was cherry pie. I will miss you "D". Phil

Phil Kelley - February 23, 2020 at 06:48 PM