



## Joseph John Thomas

May 30, 1923 - January 17, 2016

Mr. Joseph John Thomas, age 92, of Gravois Mills, passed away Sunday, January 17, 2016, at his home. He was born May 30, 1923, in Jefferson City, Missouri, the son of Elias and Sarah Kalaf Thomas.

Joe attended Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City and graduated from St. Peter's High School in Jefferson City.

He served in the 775th Tank Battalion of the United States Army during WWII. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star. After his time in the service, Joe moved to Versailles, Missouri.

In the early 1940's, Joe owned and operated the Kaiser-Frazer dealership and also managed the Royal Theatre in Versailles for many years. He owned and operated Thomas TV and later Thomas Furniture in Versailles for over forty years. He was instrumental in bringing satellite television to the Lake of the Ozarks. He also invented and manufactured the fishing lure, "Helluva Jig". He was truly a man of vision and was an active member of the Versailles business community.

Joe was a member of the St. Patrick Catholic Church in Laurie and a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the Morgan

County American Legion Post 104 for the last sixty-nine years.

During his life, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf and playing cards as well as making regular visits to the casino in Boonville.

Survivors include, Judy and Dak Krattli of Gravois Mills, Missouri; his nieces, Ann Slay and Sara Quinn (Dan) of Columbia, Missouri, Joyce Clarkston (Darrell) of Jefferson City, Missouri, Margie Pritchett (Dan) of San Jose, California; nephews, James J. Thomas (Betsy) of Jefferson City, Missouri, Gary Thomas (Cristine) of Springfield, Missouri and numerous great and great-great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elias and Sarah Thomas, Billie Anderson, two brothers, James G. Thomas and Louis Thomas, a sister, Victoria Thomas Blaser and a nephew, Stephen Thomas.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 22nd, at the St. Patrick Catholic Church in Laurie with Father Patrick Dolan celebrating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Friday, at the church. Graveside services and interment with full military honors will be held at 3:00 p.m., Friday in the Resurrection Cemetery in Jefferson City. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the St. Patrick Catholic Church in Laurie.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

3015 West Truman Blvd.  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
176 Marian Dr.  
Gravois Mills, MO 65037  
<http://www.stpatrickcatholicchurch.org>

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
176 Marian Dr.  
Gravois Mills, MO 65037  
<http://www.stpatrickcatholicchurch.org>

# Tribute Wall

MJ

“ *Mardella Johnston sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph John Thomas*



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**mardella johnston** - January 31, 2016 at 07:39 PM

MJ

“ *Mardella Johnston lit a candle in memory of Joseph John Thomas*



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**Mardella Johnston** - January 23, 2016 at 07:14 AM

MD

“ Our family became Joe's neibghor at the lake in 1977. George and Carylon had looked at Joe's house before he bought it and my mom was some what up set when she did not get it 😞. But as faith would have it the house next door came up for sale and the neighbors made sure Geogre and Carylon were first on the list to get it. Well that was the start of a great friendship with Joe and our family. Joe, Billy, george and carylon where pretty much together every weekend from then on. After Billy and moms passing he still had dinner with our family every weekend many good memories of those times. Joe was an avid fishermen and after losing his leg he might not make it to dinner as much as he use to but would fish on our dock as it was easer to get the wheel chair down. So we saw him a lot down on the dock. He was truly a great guy and will be missed.

*RIP Joe*

*Mike ,Marian Dippel and family*

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**mike dippel** - January 19, 2016 at 02:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Luke Quinn** - January 19, 2016 at 02:27 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album *Family & Friends*



**Joyce Clarkston** - January 19, 2016 at 02:26 AM

JD

*Cousins Joe Thomas & Margie Ghosen Wagenknecht - July 13, 2014.*

**Janie Dunn-Rankin** - January 19, 2016 at 10:03 AM

RS

*WITHOUT A DOUBT ..JOE WAS A SPECIAL GUY..AFTER HIS HOUSE BURNED JIM BUILD HIS NEW ONE.AND AFTER THAT THEY BECAME GREAT FRIENDS JIM TOOK HIM WHERE EVER HE WANTED TO GO.. JIM WAS WITH HIM THROUGH SO MUCH..HIS HEART OPERATION HIS LEG AND HE PULLED THROUGH IT ALL..OVER THE YEARS OUR FRIENDS BECAME HIS FRIENDS..AND THEY LOVED HIM TOO WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR JOE...JOE WOULD CALL ME WHEN THE CARDINALS WERE PLAYING AND TALK ABOUT WHAT WE COULD DO TO MAKE THEM BETTER.. IT WAS FUN...*

*...HE LOVED TO FISH..WHEN JIM WAS OUT OF TOWN HE WOULD CALL ME TO BRING HIM BATE SO HE COULD FISH...AND I ENJOYED DOING IT FOR HIM..SO MANY MANY THINGS ABOUT JOE TO TELL ,ALL GOOD...WE MISS HIM NOW AND ALWAYS WILL I WILL MISS HOLDING HIS HAND AT CHURCH DOING THE LORD'S PRAYER ..WE ARE VERY SAD TO LOSE HIM....A VERSE IN THE BIBLE PHILIPPIANS 1 VERSE 3 SAYS "I THANK MY GOD IN ALL REMEMBRANCE OF YOU": THANK YOU JOE..FOR THAT. WE WILL NEVER, FORGET YOU...*

*OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYER TO THE FAMILY WE CARE.....JIM AND RUTH ANN SAAB.*

**RUTH ANN SAAB** - January 19, 2016 at 11:32 AM

RL

*I met Joe thru his good friend Jim Saab. Jim took Joe wherever he wanted to go but on occasion, Jim would have to go out of town. When he was gone, I would go with Ruth Ann Saab to take Joe minnows so he could go fishing. He was waiting for us with his fishing pole in hand because he knew we would be there soon.*

*Jim made sure Ruth Ann was there for Joe if he needed her.*

*Joe was always telling me what not to eat because I'm diabetic and he was worried about me losing a leg.*

*I don't think Joe was diabetic, he just wanted to scare me.*

*He will be missed by so many. We love. you Joe.*

*R.I.P. My dear friend*

*My prayers are with you..... Rita Lasky*

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**Rita Lasky** - January 19, 2016 at 01:49 PM

JC

*Joe, Margie Ghosen Wagenknecht (Cousin)*

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**Joyce Clarkston** - January 20, 2016 at 11:50 PM

JC

“ Although my Uncle Joe was a confirmed bachelor and had no children of his own, he always was available & shared his love with his Nieces & Nephews. I could write a book of memories, but, there are those ones which will always stay with you for life. Here are just a few:

- My Cousin Sara & I glued to the window in my Grandma's house on Christmas Eve, waiting for Uncle Joe to arrive, so that we could open our gifts. (He always had the biggest ones for us)!

- Early Thanksgiving mornings - My Mom (His older Sister) yelling at him for letting his bird dog, Dale, run back to my bedroom to wake me up by jumping on my bed & licking me.

- Being by my Aunt Delores' side, when his Brother, Uncle Louie & Nephew, Cousin Stevie died in an airplane crash in 1967, as well as looking out for Uncle Louie's children, Cousins Gary & Margie.

- Making sure that I not only had a rocker, but, also, a warm winter tent coat when I was pregnant with my older Son, Chris. Not to mention a better rocker, recliner when my younger Son, Lance was born. I never asked for them, he just came up with what I needed. Although, he may have conspired with my Mother & possibly Lorraine Mercurio....I'm not sure.

- The most touching experience was one day when I was at his furniture store in Versailles. He told me to wait a minute before I left. He went into his office, & came out with a handful of something. That something turned out to be every photo I ever gave him of my Sons, Chris & Lance, in order of age. I could have never guessed that he kept & took better care of my Sons' photos, than I even did.

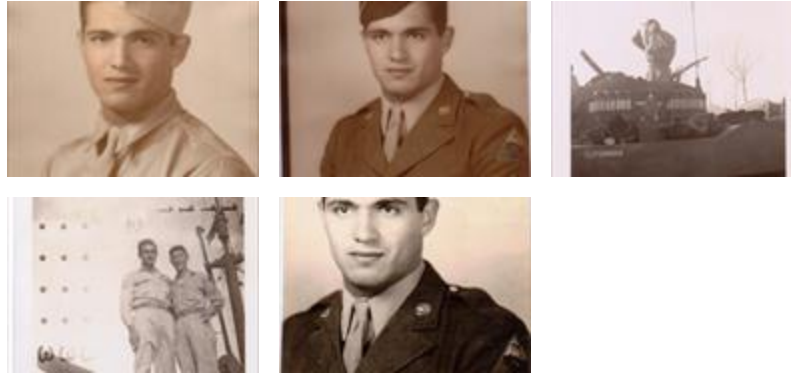
*That was my wonderful, Uncle Joe!*

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Joyce Clarkston - January 18, 2016 at 08:01 PM

JC

“ 7 files added to the album *WWII Service*



Joyce Clarkston - January 18, 2016 at 02:07 PM

JC

“ 3 files added to the album *The Early Years*



Joyce Clarkston - January 18, 2016 at 02:03 PM

JK

*These photos are great Joyce. Thanks for sharing*

Judy Krattli - January 20, 2016 at 12:52 PM

JC

*Thanks, Judy. Actually, Lance did most of the digging through Mom's collection of photos & scanned them, so that they could be uploaded.*

Joyce Clarkston - January 20, 2016 at 11:24 PM

JC

“ 17 files added to the album *Family & Friends*



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**Joyce Clarkston** - January 18, 2016 at 01:56 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album *Family & Friends*



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**Joyce Clarkston** - January 18, 2016 at 01:51 PM

JC

*Joe, Chris Clarkston (Great Nephew), Darrell (Cotton) Clarkston*

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**Joyce Clarkston** - January 20, 2016 at 11:49 PM

JC

“ 11 files added to the album 90th Birthday



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**Joyce Clarkston** - January 18, 2016 at 01:22 PM