



Laurens Thomas

January 8, 1928 - January 3, 2014

Conway...Laurens Dubose "Laurie" Thomas, 85, of Busbee Street, died Friday, January 3, 2014 at Conway Medical Center.

Mr. Thomas was born in Georgetown, a son of the late John Willie and Mary Caroline Jayroe Thomas. He was a US Navy Veteran having served in WWII aboard the USS Shangri-La, an Aircraft Carrier. After attending The University of Georgia, Laurie returned to Georgetown and began working in his brother Marion's grocery store. He later married Marilyn Timmons and they moved to Conway where he began running a small grocery store, with the help of Marilyn's aunt, Mrs. Sadie Bell Cherry. Later in 1959, Laurie's IGA was opened, and Laurie has continued to work at the store until he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in 2011. Even throughout his treatments, he was there frequently to assist his daughter, Jody, and visit with the staff & friends. Laurie was a longtime member of Kingston Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon & usher. His favorite past times were hunting, fishing, spending time at his Cherry Grove creek house, and being with his family. He enjoyed football, baseball and was a big USC Gamecock fan. In 2001, he was presented the "Small Business Man of the Year" award by the Conway Rotary Club at the Conway Chamber of Commerce banquet. Laurie was a very loving, caring and compassionate man. His family, his dogs & cats were very special to him. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marilyn Timmons Thomas.

Surviving are: his wife, Frances Jones Thomas of Conway; three daughters, Lauren T. Holmes (Joe), Jody T. Browder (Donnie) and Kim T. Holmes (Mike) all of Conway; one son, David Thomas (Sudie) of St. Matthews; six grandchildren, Alison H. Jordan (Justin), Brittany G. Holmes (fiancee, Thomas Jordan), Benjamin D. Browder, Daniel H. Browder, Brandon Greist and Garrett Clyde Thomas; three great granddaughters, Rylee Jordan, Raegan Jordan and Alesia Martin; a sister, Hazel T. Hickson of Conway; numerous nieces and nephews; and name sake, Major General, Laurie Newton of Conway.

A memorial service will be held 4:00 PM Sunday at Kingston Presbyterian Church with Pastor Rhett Talbert officiating.

The family will receive friends from 2:30-4:00 PM Sunday in the fellowship hall of the church.

Memorials may be sent to Kingston Presbyterian Church, 800 3rd Avenue, Conway, SC 29526, Tara Hall for Boys, PO Box 955, Georgetown, SC 29442, MUSC Leukemia Fund Foundation, 18 Bee Street, MSC450, Charleston, SC 29425 or to Carolina Cancer Foundation, 8121 Rourk Street, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.

Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Kingston Presbyterian Church
800 Third Avenue
Conway, SC 29526-5141

Service

JAN 5. 4:00 PM (ET)

Kingston Presbyterian Church
800 Third Avenue
Conway, SC 29526-5141

Tribute Wall



“ Our thoughts are with all of the family, we are going to all miss Mr. Thomas!

Dorothy, Danny, and family



Dorothy Jordan Dunn - January 08, 2014 at 07:47 PM

WU

“ RIP Sailor !!!!



Wayne Williams - USMC - January 06, 2014 at 07:19 PM

CL

“ Carlisle & Liz Lewis lit a candle in memory of Laurens Thomas



Carlisle & Liz Lewis - January 06, 2014 at 05:34 PM

JE

“ *Janice Elliott lit a candle in memory of Laurens Thomas*



Janice Elliott - January 06, 2014 at 02:17 PM

RR

“ *Mr. Thomas was a good man. Sorry the world lost a man that kept the small town feel in an every changing world of "GET THEM IN AND GET THEM OUT". When you went to Lauries IGA you felt like one of the family. Mr. Thomas gave me my first public job at 14 years of age. I am very appreciative for giving me a chance and to learn as a young man. I can still hear Ms. Cherry telling me "Ask them if they want a box or a bag Watermelon" to every customer that I bagged their groceries. I will be praying for the family. May GOD comfort you all. Ryan Rowell (Watermelon Ryan)*

RYAN ROWELL - January 05, 2014 at 05:39 PM

DH

“ *Lauren, Jody, and Kim:
Sorry for your loss. I'm very appreciative of your father giving me the opportunity at age 15 to work at the IGA and learn so many things about business and customer service. It's a similar opportunity that he gave so many young people over all these years. May God comfort you during this time.
Dean Hudson*

Dean Hudson - January 05, 2014 at 04:24 PM

MJ

“*Mr. Thomas was a wonderful man, and loved by all who knew him. He will always have a special place in my heart. I'm so sorry Jody and all of his family members. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. He will certainly be missed. Love y'all,*

Mattie Oliver Johnson

Madeline M. Oliver Johnson - January 05, 2014 at 04:01 PM

RF

“*Laurie Thomas will be missed a whole lot by anyone that knew him. Around the store, he was the quieter man but when it came down to it, you knew who was in charge. He was Mr. T. to the employees before "Mr. T" was on television. When he got on the intercom and called for all grocery personnel, you dropped what you were doing to answer him. One day you may be stocking shelves and he would walk up and give you his truck keys to go get his boat or whatever project he had going on. I would show Christmas trees, transfer to the Travel Park store, anything he needed me to do. One time I was running a register and he gave me \$1800 for the drawer and said to put it in the register when it slowed down. I forgot but he took care of it. Mr. Thomas was always dependable, a man I could confide in, ask his opinion, and seek his advice. He was a man who would buy you a set of tires if you couldn't afford them and let you pay him back over several weeks. I cherish my 5 year history at the store and all of the friends I made and getting to know his family. They will always be special to me. "Buddy"*

Robert Ford - January 05, 2014 at 12:38 PM

MD

“ I loved seeing Mr. Laurie and Mrs. Frances when they came into Donzelle's. They were truly a joy to sit down and talk with! We will be thinking about your family during this difficult time and our prayers are with you all!

Much love,
Marley Dickerson (Larry and Delores)

marley dickerson - January 05, 2014 at 12:23 PM

LO

“ Frances we are so sorry for your loss. We are unable to be with you because of illness, but please know that our prayers and thoughts are with you at this sad time.

Buddy & Linda Owens

Linda Owens - January 05, 2014 at 12:05 PM

PS

“ Dear Frances -

We just heard the news and are so very sorry for your loss. Laurie was a wonderful man and we both always admired him and so enjoyed the time we spent with him. We wish we could be there for the memorial service, but please know that we are thinking of you and Laurie's children and family and sending prayers for comfort and support. Please let us know if there is anything we can do.

With much love,

Patti Smart and Tracy Davenport, Sam and Abby

Patti Smart - January 05, 2014 at 10:51 AM

LH

“ *May the memories of the wonderful times you shared with Laurie comfort you and all of Conway, today and always.*

Laura and Sandra Hyman - January 05, 2014 at 10:50 AM

WU

“ *RIP Sailor !!!!*



Wayne Williams - USMC - January 05, 2014 at 07:06 AM

JG

“ *On behalf of the Clarence L. Newton family, Uncle Laurie and his family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Daddy has fond memories of Uncle Laurie as they were close in age. We are sorry that we will be unable to attend his celebration of life, but we will meet again. Jenny Newton Gatling*

Jenny Gatling - January 04, 2014 at 09:21 PM

KW

“ *Frances and family,
My prayers will be with you.
Karen Watts*

Karen Watts - January 04, 2014 at 07:24 PM

LR

“ *Lois Rogers lit a candle in memory of Laurens Thomas*



Lois Rogers - January 04, 2014 at 06:58 PM

AW

“ *Frances,
Larry and I are thinking of you during this time of sadness for you
and your family. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you during
the coming days.*

Anne Woodle

Anne Woodle - January 04, 2014 at 03:08 PM

EB

“ *We have lost in our Uncle Laurie a man who was gentle, strong,
and just an all around good man. I wish we could be with Aunt
Frances, my cousins, and Aunt Hazel at this time but I will keep all
in our prayers. We send our love from the Biloxi, MS Boudreauxs.
He will be missed but never forgotten. Edmond Boudreaux*



Edmond Boudreaux - January 04, 2014 at 03:07 PM