



Shirley Jean Thomas

July 2, 1943 - November 3, 2016

Shirley Jean Thomas, a long-time resident of both Zionsville, Indiana and Bonita Springs, Florida, entered eternal life as an angel of God on November 3, 2016 at Joanne's House (Hope Hospice). She battled untreatable lung and adrenal gland cancer diagnosed May 16, 2016. She was 73 years old.

Shirley was married almost 52 years to the love of her life, her husband, Chuck. She was deeply devoted and loved their two children and seven grandchildren along with love for all her friends across the USA and Canada. She will be sadly missed by all and remembered for her admiring smile and warm glow of friendship and love. She was God's gift to all of us and brighten the lives of countless people.

Shirley was born July 2, 1943 in Dyess, Arkansas to her now deceased parents, R. Douglas and Vida Mae Lansdale as the youngest of eight children. All are now deceased except for her sister, Dottie Balok of Leesburg, Florida.

She graduated from Berrien Springs High School in Michigan then attended South Bend Business School. She met Chuck while working at Bendix Corporation in South Bend and married him on February 13, 1965. After moving to Indianapolis in May, 1965, she continued to work as a legal secretary and homemaker. She then retired from her career to raise

her family and get involved with the community of Zionsville and Indianapolis.

Her hobbies

included bridge, golf, walking, biking, yoga, reading, dancing especially on POET's night and traveling the USA and Europe. However, her most important time was spent with her two children and seven grandchildren along with her many, many friends. She loved to spend time in the evening at Bonita Bay beach enjoying the wonderful sunsets for more than 22 years with her husband, family and friends.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Chuck, her beloved children, Todd Thomas (former wife, Nancy) of Sheridan, Indiana and Tracy Kindred (Craig, husband) of Parker, Colorado and seven grandchildren, Hayley, Kayla, Trista, Cassidy, Charlie, Adelyn and Emery. She has several nieces and nephews (great grand nieces and nephews) who have brought joy to her life. What a lovable family!! She is also survived by her dear "adopted family" of Lori Mills and her sons, Elliott, Eric and Kyle as well as Richard Grana and his son Michael—an extended family unit forever.

Celebration of life services will be held at North Naples United Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 8 at 4:30pm. Additionally, there will be a service in Indianapolis on Dec. 3rd at St. Luke's United Methodist Church at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in Shirley's memory may contribute to either North Naples United Methodist Church, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, YMCA of Greater Indianapolis or Joanne's House (Hope Hospice) in Bonita Springs. Also, please consider a donation to the American Cancer Society to fight this dreaded disease.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 8. 4:30 PM (ET)

North Naples United Methodist Church
6000 Goodlette Road North
Naples, FL 34109

Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley Jean Thomas*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Chuck I am very sorry for your loss. You were a great couple and I know she will be sorely missed. Preston*

Preston Breunig - November 15, 2016 at 02:52 PM



“ ---> *Cousin Shirley Thomas left a mark on many hearts and we are all thankful for that, as well as her smiles that never stopped and the love that was in her eyes for everyone, especially her hubby, Cousin Chuck Thomas. Rest now Shirley and keep your eye on us we miss you already..... Cousin Berta in NC...*



Roberta Hart - November 08, 2016 at 11:30 PM



“ *So sad to learn of Shirley's death much to soon. I have great memories of golfing with her at MH and doing everyone ringers etc together after lunch. My deepest sympathy to the entire family. Chris Egbert*

Christine Egbert - November 08, 2016 at 11:12 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Shirley Jean Thomas.



November 07, 2016 at 02:11 PM



“ Chuck, Jim & I have you and your family in our prayers...Our deepest sympathy to all- Jim & Tracy Booi and Family

Tracy Booi - November 07, 2016 at 02:00 PM



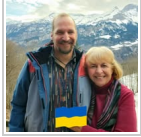
“ Our prayers are with you Chuck, Tracy, Todd and all of your family. I had the good fortune of meeting Shirley 50 years ago at the South Bend Y. We became Instant BFFs and laughed at life every time we got together. I will always treasure the many " giggle" memories we've shared . Suzanne and Tony

Suzanne DeCellis - November 07, 2016 at 12:28 PM



“ Chuck, Todd, & Tracy -- Our prayers are with you as we remember this very special lady. Shirley had the kindness, warmth, & love to make everyone feel special. She will be greatly missed. Don & Shirley

Don & Shirley Anweiler - November 07, 2016 at 05:53 AM



“ *David and I send our deepest sympathy to Chuck and his family. You all are in our prayers as you celebrate the life of this wonderful and loving woman.*

Sherry Stark and David Tiede

Sherry Stark - November 06, 2016 at 10:22 PM

EH

“As a child, I lived across the street from the Thomas family from late 1975 through mid 1982, and I couldn't count the number of times I went over to visit Todd to play, or spend the night. I remember very well how welcome Mrs. Thomas made us feel when we came over to visit. She seemed to really enjoy having children over, and I remember that the Thomas home was always a fun place to come over and visit. Mrs. Thomas genuinely liked to make visitors happy... she always offered good things to eat, suggested things we could do for fun, and talked to children visitors, asking us questions about how we were doing and what we were enjoying in our lives. She manifested a spirit of love in her soul, and this made her a caring and generous person, and also an adult who could raise the spirits of children and make them feel safe and cared for.

I do remember once that I almost made her cry. It was August of 1977, and I came over for Todd's birthday party, and mentioned to her that Elvis Presley had just died. I remember the emotional transformation that news had on her, taking her from the joy of her son's birthday party to sudden grief, and it has made an impression on me I haven't forgotten to this day. The grief of a death is a sharp pain; it's mainly a pain of separation and loss. It never really goes away completely. But we do live in confidence of an eventual reunion, and the enduring connection we can experience through memories, prayers, and inspiration.

Mr. Thomas, Tracey, and Todd, I offer this short prayer for your Mom.

O You Who forgives our sins and conceals our faults, who ennobles our hearts and uplifts our being, receive your handmaiden into the heaven of Your bounty and the ocean of Your grace. Grant her admission into the precincts of your transcendent mercy and boundless love that was before the foundation of heaven and earth. From You she came into this world, and she has returned to You, detached from all save You, holding fast to Your Name, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Help us to be inspired by her love and her life, and may our efforts for goodness and kindness to be magnified by our loving memories of her. Allow our prayers and memories to ascend to the immortal realms and aid her, and we pray that our hearts and minds may remain open to the blessings, inspirations, and assistance from her love and prayers.

O God, we turn to You to dispel our sorrows and change our darkness into light. Lead us and your handmaiden into the garden of happiness, cleanse us all with the most pure water, and allow us to witness Your splendor.

You are the forgiver of sins, the bestower of gifts, dispeller of afflictions!

Eric Hadley - November 06, 2016 at 02:15 PM

MC

“ *One of the nicest and most gracious people that I have ever met. You will be missed.*

Mike Cline - November 06, 2016 at 10:41 AM

AS

“ *I remember visiting Shirley and her family when I was a little girl. My mom (Debbie Voorhis) absolutely adored Shirley. I am praying for strength for her family during this difficult time. I know she will be truly missed. God Bless- Amy Smith and family*

amy smith - November 06, 2016 at 07:32 AM

CW

“ Chuck, Tracey, Todd and your families, we extend our deepest condolences to you at this sad time.

We met Shirley at Poets Night a few years ago and her bright smile and caring heart were evident from the start. She was always aware of others and went out of her way to greet everyone as they approached our 'Indianapolis' tables. Each week she would welcome us with a big smile and warm hug.

On the dance floor with Chuck she was aglow, smiling and full of fun! Their happiness together was always evident.

This past March I was at the Fitness centre with our daughter and we ran into Shirley. She spent 30 minutes out of her busy day, chatting with us. It was great fun! Her generosity of spirit touched me that day...and remains in my heart.

*Shirley was SPECIAL...and she made EACH of us feel special!
She will be greatly missed!*



*Cathy and Terry Whalen
Toronto friends*

Cathy Whalen - November 05, 2016 at 04:39 PM

JL

“ *I'm sorry to hear this news, Tracy. I have the fondest memories of seeing your mom up in the stands and being with her at your house. Peace and comfort at this time for you all. --Jen Thornley Lamkin*

Jen Lamkin - November 05, 2016 at 04:17 PM



“ *The heart that Shirley had for others is a rare gift to the many people who had the privilege to know her. I will be praying for you.*

Love from Marnie

Marnie Gee - November 05, 2016 at 03:36 PM

HW

“ *To Shirley's family: take comfort in knowing you have a guardian angel to watch over you. Her friendly greeting with a warm smile and gentle hug will always be a gift to each of us. Our love and prayers are with you, Helen and James "Jim" Wilson*

Helen C. Wilson - November 05, 2016 at 02:41 PM

SM

“ *Dearest Chuck...our hearts go out to you and your family. What a special lady Shirley was. Her smile lit up every room she entered! Cherish all those wonderful memories!*

*Love from Carefree, AZ
Susan and Lou Matusiak*

Susan Matusiak - November 05, 2016 at 01:31 PM



“ *I will miss the love of my life but she is at peace now. Our love will last beyond forever.
With my heart and body full of love.....miss you so much. Your Husband, Chuck*

Chuck Thomas - November 05, 2016 at 12:30 PM