



## Melvin C. Thomas

January 24, 1943 - January 17, 2019

Melvin Clark Thomas, 75, passed away on January 17th at Integris Hospital in Grove, Oklahoma. Melvin was born January 24, 1943, in McCune, Kansas to Eleanor “Marie” and Alvin Thomas, Sr. He was married on November 21, 1987, to Barbara “Anne” Lamb (Hunter). They were lifelong residents of Kansas before relocating in 2014 to Jasper, Texas for retirement. Anne preceded him in death on February 17, 2016.

Melvin graduated from Labette County Community High School in Altamont, Kansas in 1960. He then attended Pittsburg State University for a year before pursuing a career in sales. He worked for John Deere for several years. He had continued to farm on the side and eventually farming became his primary occupation. He joined Sherwood Cabinets, Inc in the early 1980’s as National Sales Manager and relocated with that business from Parsons to Burlington, Kansas. He was hired in 1995 as Project Manager for Decker Construction Inc. He eventually became Branch Manager for Decker Construction in Burlington and retired from that position in 2008. Melvin was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge No. 527 in Parsons and received his 55 Year membership pin in 2018.

In addition to his wife, Melvin was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Marie Thomas, and by his brother, Alvin Thomas, Jr. (Chigger). Survivors include: daughter, Tracy Fry (husband Jim); son, John Thomas; step-daughter, Brenda Beard (husband Bryon); two brothers: Calvin Thomas (wife Louise) and Francis Thomas (wife Susan); nine grandchildren; four great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and many cherished friends.

In celebration of Melvin’s life, two memorial services will be held for family and friends after which his ashes will be scattered in the Texas Gulf. Services will be held on Friday, January 25th, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Parsons, Kansas and on Saturday, January 26th, from 5:00-8:00 pm at the Rock Creek Country Club in Burlington, Kansas. Condolences may be left at <http://www.bathnaylor.com>. Memorials may be made to the Elks Scholarship fund. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of the Bath-Naylor Funeral Home Pittsburg, KS.



# Comments

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“ My sincere condolences to the family. Melvin was a great guy and always a lot of fun to be around. When Melvin was at an event, everyone there was always having fun. He would see to it.

The first time I met Melvin was in Burlington, Kansas. I saw the vehicle he was driving had Labette County plates and I told him I grew up in Altamont. I introduced myself and Melvin said that he knew me when I was in diapers, his Dad and my Dad did a lot of combining together and he worked for my Dad when he was in High School.

He told me lots of great family stories that I would have otherwise probably have never heard.

Always loved being around Melvin. A great guy and a lot of fun to be with. He will be dearly missed by everyone that was blessed with knowing him.

**Mike Stuart** - January 26, 2019 at 06:04 PM

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“ Tracy & John I know words cannot take away the pain of losing a loved one, just know that your dad touched many lives in many ways. My heart is heave as I reflect on the many good times that I had the privilege to be in the presence of Melvin. Playing golf, trips to Vegas & Cincinnati or just having a few drinks at one of his many watering holes. Melvin was a friend first and foremost, I then had the great fortune to add Melvin to our team at Decker Construction. His ability of putting people to ease and giving them straightforward answers is something you can not teach, but is a god given talent. The world is now a bit darker that Melvin is not with us, but heaven is surely a lot brighter.

God speed my friend until we meet again.

Ron McVey

**Ron McVey** - January 23, 2019 at 12:17 PM

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“ Tracy and John, it is so hard to lose a father, but you are so lucky to have shared his life for so many years. Wish I could be there for you but know that you are in good hands. Love, Aunt Phyllis Harris

**Phyllis Smith Harris** - January 22, 2019 at 09:45 AM



“ I am sorry to hear that the cancer has won. Darn it. Hopefully one of these days they will discover a way to cure us all. To all who survive Melvin keep his memories fresh in your memory bank and bring them out every once in a while. I send you my sympathy and a hug via email. (Imagine you are getting a good snug hug.) Joan Geary

**Joan Geary** - January 20, 2019 at 03:19 PM