



Kermit B. Thomas

May 26, 1938 - September 1, 2017

Kermit Boyd Thomas died peacefully at his home southwest of Hagerstown, IN on September 1, 2017.

He was born to John Jackson Thomas (b.1912, d.2000) and Elsa Rafert Thomas (b.1912, d.1947) on 26 May 1938 in Fortville, IN at the Ellingwood Clinic.

Kermit graduated 14th in a class of 120 from Bedford High School in 1956. He was accepted at Indiana University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Science in 1960. He earned a Master's Degree in Science from Indiana University in 1969 which included extra work in Flat Pattern Design at the Art Institute of Chicago with Gracie Earle, a year's study in English with Allegra Stewart at Butler University and a year of Painting at Earlham College with Elmira Kempton. He did his student teaching in 1960 at Hagerstown High School with Tom Jackson.

He signed his first teaching contract in 1961 with the Greenfield City Schools and taught for two years at the local high school. When a new Elementary Art position opened up at the Nettle Creek School Corporation in 1963, he was accepted for the position and taught there for 36 years. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 1998 and retired from teaching in 1999. He made several lifelong friends during his long tenure of teaching.

He and his wife, Jane Dennis Thomas, were married 17 March 1973 at West River Friend's Meeting. Their wedding gift to each other was a wonderful house built in 1858 on Bear Creek Road about three miles southwest of

Hagerstown, where they lived until 2008 when Kermit's health required a change. In 2007 they hired an Amish crew to build a new house closer to the road out in front of their first home.

Kermit was a member of the Hagerstown Methodist Church where he sang in the choir for 45 years. He always had a strong interest in church music and had composed over 40 hymns and other church pieces. He also sang with the Earlham College choir for several years. He restored over 30 parlor reed organs. He was a member of Historic Hagerstown Museum, the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, the Indiana Retired Teacher's Association and The Reed and Pipe Organ Society.

Kermit is survived by his wife, Jane; brother George Thomas (Carolyn) Plano, TX; stepmother Catherine Louise Thomas, age 101 years, Daytona, Beach, FL;

stepbrothers David Lane Mathews (Betty), Fairbanks, AL; and, Michael Wayne Mathews, Baltimore, MD; nieces Lara Kathleen Ford (Randy), Dayton, OH; and, Amanda Lee Thompson, West Lafayette, IN. Many much-loved cousins from both sides of the family also survive.

There will be a remembrance get-together at the Hagerstown Congregational Christian Church, UCC on Sunday, October 8, 2017 from 2-4 p.m. for family and friends. A brief memorial service will begin at 2:30 PM. Pastor Rick Alvey will officiate.

Kermit's body will be cremated and his ashes scattered on the graves of his parents with the following words, "Mom, Dad, with this action I reunite with you my being you so lovingly gave me the moment of my conception. I shall love you forever, your son Tommy."

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Congregational Christian Church, UCC
201 S. Washington St.
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Service

OCT 8. 2:30 PM (ET)

Congregational Christian Church, UCC
201 S. Washington St.
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Tribute Wall

TP

“ *Mr. Thomas was one of my favorite teachers in elementary school. I loved going to art class. I remember making tie dye t shirts. He was so nice and treated every student equally. Prayers to his family*



Tawna Poore - October 26, 2017 at 10:54 PM

JE

“ *I will always remember mr. Thomas fir directing me to go into the art field. May you Rest In Peace and enjoy reuniting with your parents*

jill emery - October 14, 2017 at 05:44 PM

 Marilyn Revalee

“ *Marilyn Revalee lit a candle in memory of Kermit B. Thomas*



Marilyn Revalee - October 05, 2017 at 07:41 AM

BC

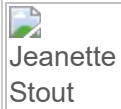
“ *Deepest sympathy on Kermit's passing. He was a fine educator and a great contributor to the Hagerstown community.
Best wishes,
Bill Conder*

Bill Conder - September 30, 2017 at 08:50 AM



“ So sorry for your loss Jane... All 5 of my kids loved art class and Mr Thomas. I have pictures of the kids and their art projects that he took and gave to them.

Adine Wilson - September 06, 2017 at 01:07 AM



“ He was so kind, patient, and encouraging, with all of his students. I loved his class and sometimes wished I could stay in art class all day just because he had such a calm, positive way about him. Thank-you Mr. Thomas, I'm hoping God paints a beautiful sky full of puffy clouds and sunshine to welcome you home.

Jeanette Stout - September 05, 2017 at 01:41 AM

JR

Kermit was a great art teacher and loved art, history and antiques. Jane, Becky and I are sorry for your loss. We have enjoyed your friendship and time we spent with you two. Jim and Becky Reed

james D. Reed - September 07, 2017 at 08:34 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Jane. He was a wonderful art teacher.

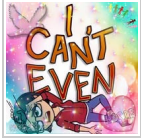


Kathie Beach Stomm - September 04, 2017 at 08:48 PM

LF

“ I am so sorry, Jane. He was one of my favorite teachers! I loved art class and have always remembered the rock polisher je had. Find peace in all the memories he left with so many of us students.

Lanell Blevins Fisher - September 04, 2017 at 03:58 PM



“ He was one of my favorite teachers in elementary. I loved his art class. He made you feel like you could do anything. So sorry to hear this.



Melissa Halstead - September 04, 2017 at 03:39 PM

JG

“ I remember substitute teaching for Mr. Thomas. He always had everything ready and wrote helpful plans. His teaching methods were very positive. He was a kind, creative person.

Judith R Godfrey - September 04, 2017 at 02:39 PM

EH

I taught with Kermit for five years. My students loved to go art. Kermit helped one of my student to create our "Just Say No" flag too. He was a friend that I get away when I left Hagerstown Ele. to go to Western Wayne. I am so sorry for his passing.

Everett Hampton - September 07, 2017 at 01:09 PM



“ Mr Thomas was an amazing assert teacher! He is one of so many teachers that played a part in my career choice. He lifted children up and made such a huge impact on so many lives. Thank you Mr. Thomas you will be missed!

Sherri Gleeson - September 04, 2017 at 02:13 PM

JT

“ *I am sorry to hear of his passing. However, it does bring up such good memories from elementary school. He was one of my favorite teachers and always heaped praise upon us for the art we created in his class. Jeff Thalls*

Jeff Thalls - September 04, 2017 at 01:13 PM



“ *Ronda Davis lit a candle in memory of Kermit B. Thomas*



Ronda Davis - September 04, 2017 at 10:10 AM