



Garland Lester Thomas

May 25, 1920 - June 23, 2013

Garland Thomas of Haleyville, 93, passed away on June 23. His wife of 59 years, Geraldine Lockhart Thomas, passed away in 2005.

His visitation will be Wednesday June 26, 2013 at Pinkard Funeral Home-Haleyville from 11:00AM to 1:00PM, with his service at 1:00PM in the chapel, with Dr. Jim Cooley and Buddy Lockhart officiating. Bro. Bob Waldrop providing the music, burial to follow at Winston Memorial Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Bob Fuller, Jerry Jackson, Jesse McRight, Tripp McRight, Johnny Long, Douglas Mayhall.

Honorary Pallbearers are his Coffee Buddies at McDonald's; John Caldwell, Charlie McAfee, JB Kirschler, George Hedges , Robert Blake and Jerry Howell.

The youngest of a blended family of 18 children, Garland is preceded in death by 3 sisters: Vida Gates, Vivian Mayhall and Cloa Mayhall; and one brother, Richard Thomas. His one grandchild, Jason Allen Thomas, also preceded him.

He is survived by a son, Gary L. Thomas and his wife, Linda, many nieces, nephews and his best friend and brother-in-law, Buddy Lockhart and his wife, Joyce.

Garland was born in Haleyville and left only to serve during World War II in the 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, fighting in several major campaigns. Each Christmas, he would tell in detail where he was at Christmastime during the war.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Haleyville, and belonged to Haleyville Masonic Lodge #464.

Retired from Illinois Central Railroad and spent 18 summers in Haines City, FL, making many lifelong friends and winning fishing tournaments, he was known as "the kid" who could fix anything in the retirement community.

Famous for grilling steaks for cookouts, Garland loved family gatherings, fishing, storytelling, and having coffee with friends at McDonald's every morning. He spent hours watching the deer gather at the feeders he created in his backyard and the hummingbirds at the feeders he eventually multiplied to 17.

Garland spent his last two months at the Col. Robert Howard Veterans Home Assisted Living facility in Pell City where he made many friends among the veterans and the staff, but his heart never left Haleyville. He said recently, "At 93, most of my family and friends are already in heaven"... Now he has joined them.

you may leave online condolences at www.pinkardfh.com

Cemetery Details

Winston Memorial Cemetery

96 Co. Rd. 36
Haleyville, AL 35565

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 26. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Pinkard Funeral Home - Haleyville
1308 21st Street, Hwy. 195
P.O. Box 592
Haleyville, AL 35565
(205) 486-7662
pinkardfh67@centurytel.net
<https://www.pinkardfh.com>

Service

JUN 26. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

HT

“ *Garland Thomas was the sweetest man I ever knew. The memories I have at 1204 25th St in Haleyville are some of the best memories of my life. Geral and Garland were everyone's favorite. They had plenty of love to go around for everybody. There will always be a place in my heart for Geral and Garland.....my favorite aunt and uncle....both in eternity with our Lord and Savior (along with their only grandson, Jason Allen Thomas, who left this world way too soon). Rest in peace dear Garland.*



Hope

Hope Trosclair - June 26, 2013 at 03:13 PM

BG

“ *Linda and Gary, I am thinking of you and praying. Garland was a good man and he will be missed.*
Bill Grant

Bill Grant - June 26, 2013 at 09:04 AM

SM

“ *Linda and Gary, we are thinking about y'all at this time and praying for God's Comforting Arms to wrap around you.*
Randy and Beverly Jones
Jim and Sandy (Jones) Montgomery

Sandy (Jones) Montgomery - June 25, 2013 at 12:18 PM

LB

“ *Uncle Garland was a fine gentleman. I remember from my childhood he and Uncle Buddy and my father would always call each other on Christmas Eve saying Santa Claus wasn't coming that he was in jail. I remember one year my cousin Linda cried and my Aunt Joyce had a hard time convincing her it was a joke. Garland Thomas had a servants heart and found great joy and satisfaction assisting and caring for others. He touched so many individuals ; we will never know the marvelous influence he had on so many lives.*

Lynn Lockhart Burch - June 23, 2013 at 05:19 PM