



Larry Allen Thomas

February 16, 1942 - April 1, 2021

Larry Allen Thomas, age 79 passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 1, 2021, at Grand Traverse Pavilions.

Larry was born on February 16, 1942, to the late Robert and Leona (Dietzel) Thomas in Saginaw, Michigan.

Larry married Emily Jane Pace on June 10th 1966 in Logan Utah. They have been married for 54 years. Larry adored Emily and always wanted her by his side. Larry and Emily moved to Northern Michigan in 1974, first to Eastport and then to Suttons Bay, but living most of their time just outside of Empire and later years in Traverse City. Larry and Emily had a loving marriage that set an honorable example to their sons. When Larry had to live in the Pavilions Emily would spend many hours a week with Larry assisting with his care and tending to things the nurses could not do.

Larry's greatest love was his family and faith. His greatest source of pride was his sons and their families. Though he was successful at his career with Ross Laboratories that was always secondary. In their younger years Larry loved to watch his son's play basketball or wrestle, he loved seeing them succeed and always encouraged their endeavors. As his family grew he loved to be part of family gatherings as often as possible and especially on the holidays. Larry loved to spend time with his grandchildren. When Larry was in the Grand Traverse Pavilions he looked forward to his grandchildren visiting and pushing him in his wheelchair around the grounds.

Larry loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing, and would often be

found off the shore of Empire or at Rocky Island Ont. long-lining for his next trophy. Larry would spend as much time as he could during the spring and summer fishing and making friends. When he was not fishing he would swim and loved to take his grandchildren to nearby Cedar lake to swim with him. His grandchildren of-ten talk of this when they reminisce.

He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Traverse City, he had great faith in Jesus Christ and was a devoted disciple. Larry volunteered many hours to his church. As a young man Larry served as a missionary in the country of New Zealand, and later served as Bishop to the Traverse City ward and held many other positions throughout the years. Larry took the admonition of Christ to serve others seriously and often took people into his home to help them in times of need.

Larry is survived by his loving wife Emily J. Thomas; children, Troy Thomas, Douglas (Tonya) Thomas, and Briant (Susan) Thomas; Melissa daughter-in-law; grandchildren Emily, Casandra, Elizabeth, Sarah, Josselyn, Hayden, Callie, Ella, Andrew, Logan, Ashley, Lauren, and Kendra; sister-in-law's Joann and Jynell, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Leona; brothers Robert Jr., Darrel, Donald, Dean, and Dale, and his oldest son Randy.

The family would like to acknowledge and thank the caregivers and Hospice workers at the Grand Traverse Pavilions, Aspen unit, for their care over the last 8 years.

Private family services will be held.

Cremation arrangements provided by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Tribute Wall



“ *Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Larry Allen Thomas*



Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home - April 06, 2021 at 01:46 PM



“ *Larry Allen Thomas*

January 30, 2023 at 04:02 AM



“ *Larry Allen Thomas*

January 30, 2023 at 01:03 AM



“ *Dearest Emily, Troy, Briant and Doug and your families.....we wish you all comfort and peace in your good memories of your Dad and husbandour 'Uncle Larry'. He reached out and helped us so many times in earlier years in so many ways. I will always be grateful for everything he did for us all. Blessings to you all, and a peaceful rest to him now his time here is over, With Love, Aunt Jill
xxxx*

Jillian Fullum - April 11, 2021 at 12:17 PM



“ 97 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home - April 06, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ *AT&T Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Larry Allen Thomas.*



AT&T Team - April 06, 2021 at 11:17 AM

“ To the Larry and Emily Thomas Family; 6 April 2021

We want to express our deepest love, and gratefulness for our devoted Leelanau Home Teachers. We shall always cherish the memories of a father, a committed Home Teacher and his sons, as they labored side by side chopping up our families winter wood supply. one August afternoon.

You gave us a memory that day noticed by all; On that August afternoon; a family of a devoted father, leading his strong sons; gave our family a labor of love ; our Home Teachers .represented our Savior and were doing for us, what he would have done, if he were on earth.

The Thomas boys were strong valiant young men; always ready and willing to serve.. Our Home Teacher, Brother Larry Thomas, was vigilant in visiting our family every month. He always had one of his sons with him, as he lead by example. That afternoon in late August though, was much different than the usual monthly visits to our living room.

There were no suits, white shirts or ties. But the Priesthood was anxiously engaged in a labor of love. The sound of buzzing chain saws soon drew a crowd of curious neighbors; as the scent of freshly cut wood filled the air. Soon the neighbor boys joined in and worked shoulder to shoulder with the Thomas boys. All were Leelanau county cherry farmers and well acquainted with working by the sweat of their brows. It was a scene to behold and my heart took a picture.. That picture is still kept within my heart and at times, I draw it forth just to view the memory of how perfect a day can be.

I saw my Savior that afternoon; His image reflecting from off the faces of these young worthy Priesthood bearers and their father who led them. We shall ever remember your love, your service, your examples and dedication. With gratefulness in our hearts; we say "thank you" to each of you.

To your father I can almost hear the Saviors words; "Well done thou good and faithful servant....enter ye in unto the rest of the Lord" I leave this testimony of what it means to be a true follower of our Lord and Savior , Jesus the Christ. And I do so in his Holy name. Amen.

Sister Janet Del Vecchio and children; Darin, Kara and Amy....;

MIKE AND JANET DELVECCHIO - April 06, 2021 at 12:43 AM

JL

“ *Janet, Darin, Kara, & Amy of Leelanau purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Larry Allen Thomas.*



Janet, Darin, Kara, & Amy of Leelanau - April 05, 2021 at 11:53 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Larry Allen Thomas.*



April 05, 2021 at 08:36 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Larry Allen Thomas.*



April 05, 2021 at 08:11 PM

SH

“ Briant and family, I am deeply sorry for your loss. All of us on the MISS DIG board send you our condolences, and wish that sweet memories bring you peace and comfort.
Shoshannah

Shoshannah - April 05, 2021 at 05:08 PM

BT

“ 1 file added to the album Larry



Briant Thomas - April 04, 2021 at 09:43 PM

JT

“ My dear Emiky and family. My condolences on Larry's passing through the veil. The gospel is a comfort during our grief as we understand where he is and you will see him again. Eternal families are blessings we can rely on. What a joyous reunion for a father and a son to be reunited on the other side of the veil. To the Thomas family, please know you are in my prayers.

Joanne Tuck - April 04, 2021 at 08:23 PM