



Robert Thomas

March 20, 1949 - April 21, 2008

Robert Lynn, son of Mary Ann (Abrams) and Ralph Louis Thomas was born on March 20, 1949 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He passed away suddenly in an auto accident south of Hardtner, Kansas on the 21st day of April at the age of 59 years, 1 month and 1 day.

He attended the Aline Grade School and graduated from Woodward High School with the class of 1967. He attended one year at OSU and then joined the United States Army serving one term in Vietnam. After his discharge he attended Northern Junior College at Blackwell.

On May 28, 1971 he was married to Faith Herbig in Blackwell, Oklahoma. To their marriage three children; Mike, Kelli and John were born. Faith passed away on October 28, 1996.

Following their marriage they moved to Alva where they finished college at Northwestern, where he received his degree in Agricultural Business. In 1974 they moved to Hardtner, Kansas working for the United States Postal Service and the oil fields.

In 1996 after Faith passed away he continued to work for the Postal Service and in the Garden Center at Wal-Mart.

He attended the Hardtner United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Stateline American Legion Post #175, the School Board and a Volunteer Fireman. He served as Fire Chief for many years and also served a short term as the municipal Judge. He acted and sang in the Borderline Theater.

Mr. Thomas was preceded in death by his father Ralph.

Bob is survived by his daughter and her husband Kelli and Dan Rendon of Stillwater, two sons and their wives; Mike and Tina of Morrison and John and Arlene of Ridgecrest, California. Three grandchildren; Amanda, Christopher and Alicia Faith, his mother, Mary Ann of Mooreland, and a brother and his wife, Jack and Cathy of Las Cruces, New Mexico, several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

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Tribute Wall

JR

“ I have just read all the wonderful words written about about Robert(Bob), and they all confirm what I've know all my life. He was one of the kindest, gentlest, funny men I've ever loved. Anytime we Thomas' get together the stories and laughter start. Robert will always a part of the stories, a part of the laughter. My heart has been so heavy with sadness since the accident - but knowing he's with Faith, Uncle Ralph, Daddy and Darrel makes it some better for me. I love you all so very much and will continue to pray for God's strength for you.

Janice

Janice Richter - April 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ I am not someone who knew Bob well, I am just one of many customers that he has helped over the years at Wal-Mart. I happened to have just been one that he helped the day before he went home to be with Jesus. I just want the family to know that he even just briefly knowing him was a joy. Very kind & helpful man! My prayers go out to you all.

Belinda

Belinda Gavitt - April 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ i only know bob as a walmart customer. he always was willing to help a customer and had a smile on his face. Our prayers are with his family.

Amanda - April 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Bob made a huge impact on this earth by his kindness, caring, and humor. We always seemed to ‘run’ into him at Wal-Mart and he always greeted us and paid special attention to the kids. His caring soul will never be forgotten and his affects on each person he encountered will be unending. I am so sorry for your lose and words really can’t describe the sadness our community is feeling without Bob. You are in our thoughts and prayers now and during the difficult moments that lie ahead. Always find peace in knowing that your dad gave many people happy memories and will never be forgotten.

Miranda Walz-Allen - April 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Thomas family - I know I already wrote on here, but I feel I need to do it again today. It tears me up not to be able to be there with you in support and to celebrate Dad's life. He always made me feel like one of his own even when I wore OU apparel into his house. Well, today I am wearing my OSU orange and black in tribute to the great man that he is which is how he will be remembered. I love you guys. You are always in my thoughts and prayers.
Love- Carol

Carol Potter - April 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ All of us involved with Borderline Theater will always have the wonderful memories Bob gave us. The stage was always so blessed with Bob’s talents.

Bryan Stacey - April 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ We will miss Bob so very much. He was our mail carrier, and involved in so many different capacities in his community. He was always so much fun to be around. We are so sorry for your sudden loss, it is such a shock. May God bring you comfort.

June and Duane Gerber - April 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Bob was the person I have known in this community the longest. After working with him at Wal-Mart for 3 years, I had the pleasure of working and acting with him in Borderline productions. He was always the first person to memorize his lines for the plays! He amazed us all with his knowledge of tv trivia...I remember a few weeks ago after one performance of "Clue the Musical" how Julie Sterling sat for an hour trying to stump him...and she couldn't! :) I will miss his smile and laugh. He was truly a beautiful person. Go Pokes! Love ya Bob!

Shay Miller - April 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Kelli, Mike & John,
I truly regret that your kids will not have the opportunity to know their grandpa as they grow up. He was and always will be a kind and gentle man who loved his wife and kids!! Know that he loved you all!!

Sharon (Bush) Doctor - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ Bob was one of the most amazing people I have ever known. He always had a kind, calming effect on everyone. His smile, humor and friendship will be missed forever. The cryptoquips in the paper will never be the same.

Nancy Jacobson - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Bob, Wow Buddy, we had a lot of great times in the G.C. and I will never forget you. I remember helping you put furniture together and always always always talking about OSU. Cheer for them from Heaven Bob. We all miss you so much and we will never forget you. Rylee says Hi and that she misses you too. Lots of Love, God I Miss You! GO POKES!!!!

Traci Litton - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TZ

“ I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Bob was a great guy to many. He was always so happy and very pleasant to be around. I will miss seeing his smiling face every time I go shopping. We always made a point to go and visit with him. Christmas time will not be the same for many. Every year after Thanksgiving he would always ask "when we were going to make your peanutbutter balls". He loved peanutbutter and he would even offer to buy anything we needed for them. We would always make him wait until Christmas was a little closer so he would have some for the holiday, but it was worth it because his face would always light up when we finally took his batch to him. My heart hurts this week. A great man was taken from this world but I find peace in knowing he is with his wife, who he loved dearly, and in a safe place where nothing can hurt him again. Anyone who met him knew from the first word he spoke that he was a gentle, kind, caring, and loving man. I never knew him to be in a bad mood. We may be sad but take comfort in knowing that the heavens started rejoicing the second his spirit arrived. I am very thankful that I was one of the lucky ones to have had a chance to know him. Please know that you are in my prayers & thoughts as you are dealing with your loss.

Tabitha Zeller - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ I cannot say that Bob "Was" a great man I will say Bob "Is" a great man, as he will always be with all of us who had the pleasure of meeting him. It was a pleasure, no matter how bad a day, he was always smiling.

Many Prayers,
Loni (former Wal-mart Family)

Loni Ouellette - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I can honestly say that I will think of Bob every day when I glance out my front window and see my mailbox. Every year, a few months before Christmas, Bob would trek up to my door in all kinds of weather bearing boxes. He would give me that all-knowing look of "Here we go again, Barb is shopping!" I always told him it saved me from facing the outside elements; so I was sure to order something weekly! Besides, I got to know Bob and had the opportunity to say hello. We just never know what each day will bring in our lives. Take comfort in the knowledge that Bob made a positive and friendly impact on many lives. He will be missed.

Barbara Walz - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ Dear Mike, Kelli and John,

I never met your Dad but I always hear good stories about him from John & Arlene. I also hear that he was a wonderful Grandpa to Christopher and Alicia and I am sure that they will be so grateful of the time they got to spend with him. We are so sorry for your loss and our condolences go out to you and your families. May god grant you the serenity you need to feel at peace and to know that he has rejoined with your Mom in heaven.

Diana Veloz - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Aunt MaryAnn, and Jack and Cathy and families,

My heart goes out to each of you at this time in your loss of a wonderful son, brother and uncle. Robert was such a fun-loving and giving soul who touched som many lives with his laughter and his smile. He will be missed greatly.

There are so many endearing and fun memories that we are all left with to share and I know you are comforted in the fact that he is "Home" and has many loving arms to welcome him in.

May the love and support of your family and friends help you through this time. We regret that we are unable to attend the service and share in the remembrance of such a special man, but please know that Buck and I will continue to hold you close in our thoughts and prayers.

*All our love,
Kimmy and Buck Beam*

Kim and Buck Beam - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Rhonda & Kids,

We were so sorry to hear about Bob. We know that he will be greatly missed by you and the kids. Bob could always make the day brighter just by talking to him or seeing him. Bob was the first name my oldest son learned to say, and when he would go through Wal-Mart hollering for Bob that would put a big smile on Bob's face. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you in this time of sorrow. I don't know any special words to take away the pain, but just know that we are there if you need us. Love, Kim, Ray, Gabriel & Maecen

Kim & Ray Loya - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Ray and I both had the pleasure of working with Bob. He was a very good man, and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family.

Ray & Kim Loya - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ I have had the extreme pleasure of acting along side Bob in several of the *Bordline* plays. He will be greatly missed by all of us and the plays just won't be the same without Bob being there. He was always involved in one way or another. I'll also miss seeing his smiling face at Wal-mart. He was a great friend and my entire family really enjoyed getting to know him over the past few years. He was truly "a character".

Gary Jacobs - April 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Dear Aunt Mary Ann, Jack and Cathy, Mike, Kelli, John, and family,

It was with much sorrow that we learned of Robert's passing. I have had some time in the last 2 days to remember him with much love and smiles. I know that anyone who knew him will have that same warm feeling that all those "Thomas" guys bring to our lives and hearts. We are so sorry to not be able to attend the services on Friday. While it will be so difficult to say goodbye to a wonderful son, father, brother, friend...I am sure it will also be a time to celebrate a life that brought strength and joy to so many people in his life. And I know there are many loving arms in heaven already holding him and welcoming him home. We keep you all in our hearts and prayers.

*Love to you all,
Steve and Phyllis Hilterbran*

Phyllis Hilterbran - April 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Bob,
Nothing is the same without you. Your smile could brighten my day, your jokes would always make me laugh. You will always be with me no matter where I go. I miss you terribly.

Shauna Fox - April 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VE

“ *Dear friend, Bobbers, Working with you has been an honor. You have been there for me through really hard times and i am truly grateful to have gotten to spend the years by your side. You will be missed! You are my best friend and i will never forget you. Love you lots!*

Vanessa Eden - April 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Dear Family,*

Words cannot be expressed during this time. I am lucky to call Bob my uncle. Memories of him flood my thoughts. Prayers for you flood my heart.

Love to each of you.

Carrie

Carrie Fleharty - April 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Mike, Kelli and John and your families:

Words cannot express how my heart feels right now and how I wish I could wrap you up in my arms and hold each of you close. I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad, he was such a funny, kind and sweet man and he will be missed by so many dear friends and loved ones. I have so many warm memories of our Irwin-Thomas get-togethers and reunions(Ice Cream, Cards, Horses, Stories about our families) through the years and every one of them brings a smile to my face as well as a chuckle or two.

I don't know if we can ever fully comprehend why our parents must be taken from us when they are so young, and yet when we are so young as well, but please find comfort that you kids have all been blessed with wonderful memories of both of your parents, Faith and Robert, to hold in your hearts and share forever. They are proof that it doesn't matter how much time you are given, it is how you live your life day to day to make a difference in somebody's life. They both enjoyed you kids and just life in general so much and I know that they expect you to carry that on with your families. I haven't had the pleasure of meeting Robert's grandkids, but I am sure that they are the light of his life and I know he is sharing all of that with your Mom up in heaven.

I am so sorry that I won't be able to attend the service, but please know that my heart is with you and I will keep each of you in my prayers.

*All my Love,
Kimmy*

Kimberly Irwin Beam - April 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Rhonda & Kids,
I was terribly saddened to hear about Bob. Bob was a kind, gentle, funny, and loving man. He will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy lies with you. Dakota has had a very hard time with this. He says Bob was his favorite. I really don't know how to put words to what I feel or what to say to make a difference, so, I will just say this, it's a comfort to me knowing that he is in heaven and I want you to know that I am praying for you and your family. Always keep your faith close to you as it is what will get you through the darkest times. I hope this wasn't intrusive of me. Please forgive me if it was.
With All My Thoughts and Prayers and Love,
Michelle and Family

Michelle Nally & Family - April 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ Aah, the stories I could tell about the 31 years I worked with your mom and dad, some of them very funny, some very sad. I can tell you that the last conversation I had with your dad was one I will cherish forever; we shared a good laugh over a silly Hardtner incident. He rarely agreed with me on anything and we had some heated discussions but in the end, he knew I was always right! I will miss him but I will also be happy for him because I know he is in Heaven with your mom, the love of his life.
Hugs to all of you,
Linda

Linda - April 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ Rhonda, how very sorry we are. Bob was a friend. I will always remember him. Our thoughts are with you. Nan

Nan and Debbie - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Dear Mike, Kelly, & John

We will miss your Dad everyday when it is mail time. He has been a positive presence in our lives for many many years. Bob was extremely conscientious with his responsibility as our mail carrier and went beyond the call of duty rendering his service. He will be greatly missed throughout the community in many ways.

We are truly sorry that his life had to end so tragically.

Please feel free to call us if we can be of service in any way during this difficult time.

May God bless each of you and your families as you say your final respects to an outstanding man. I know you must have a vast store of great memories to help you through this difficult time.

David & Carol Wolgamott

David & Carol Wolgamott - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ Mike, Kelli, & John- Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We love you as well as Bob like a member of our family. We are deeply saddened and continue to pray for your family.

Love- Mary, Kim, and Carol Potter

Potters - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ I wish I had some magical words to say that could take away all the sadness of this tragedy. My boys and I are part of Bob's Walmart Family and we will hold a very special place in our hearts for Bob forever!! Sending lots of Weinhoffer love and prayers to all of Bob's family and friends!

The Weinhoffers

Tonya, Zachery, & Connor

The Weinhoffers - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Mike, Kelli, and John: My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time. Bob was a wonderful person and will be dearly missed. God Bless You All.

Loretta Stoddart

Loretta Stoddart - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I am very sad about your loss. It is a big loss to all of us that knew Bob. He was such a wonderful man to work with and to be around him was a joy. He could always find away to make you laugh and cheer up. He will be missed dearly. Our prayers are with you all.

DiAnne Hyman - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Aunt Mary Ann & Family: Words cannot express how sorry I was to hear about Robert. Even though we haven't gotten to see him very much, it has been fun over the last few years to see him pop in on a few of the emails floating around amongst all of us cousins. The internet has opened up a nice way for us all to come in and out of each others lives more frequently. Everytime I encounter someone from the Hardtner area, of course they always know Robert or Bob and speak highly of him. I'm not sure why God chooses to bring the Thomas boys home so soon, but I hope you all can find comfort that all those great Thomas men are up there, eating ice cream, probably playing cards, and certainly telling tall tales together. I am so sorry that we won't be there to comfort you and help ease the burden of this loss, but please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. We love you all,
Wayne, Lori, Meghan & Keegan

Lori McMillin - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Thomas family-
I know I do not have to tell you how sad I am. Dad is such a great father and man. I was happy to call him Dad as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Love-
Carol Potter & Mike Wild

Carol Potter - April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM