



## Dr. Jerry Thomas

May 22, 1953 - September 26, 2023

DR. JERRY AROE THOMAS, MD, AGE 70,

passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 surrounded by family. He was a native and longtime resident of Thomas, LA. He was a member of Thomas First Baptist Church. Jerry had a deep passion for serving the community of Washington parish as a Family Physician, Coroner, State Representative, State Senator, and in the Army National Guard. An All State Basketball player, he graduated Valedictorian of the class of 1971 at Thomas High School. After graduating Summa Cum Laude early from Southeastern Louisiana University in Dec 1974, he taught High School Science for 6 months at Bowling Green in 1975. He went on to receive his M.D. from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans in 1979. He practiced medicine for 44 years as a Family Physician. At the age of 26, he was elected Coroner of Washington Parish. During the 1980s, he served at the rank of Major with the Louisiana Army National Guard as the Battalion Surgeon of the 205th Engineering Battalion, including an overseas stint in Panama. In 1988, he was elected to the Louisiana State legislature where he served in both houses until 2004. A few of his most proud accomplishments were the successful advocacy to save the hospitals in Bogalusa, the creation of the Bogue Chitto State Park in Franklinton, the creation of a new library in Thomas, and the soon completion of the Early Education program in Thomas. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. His

inexhaustible interest in learning about the people and the world around him will never be forgotten.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 47 years, Lou Ann Pitre Thomas, his children and spouses, Dr. Jason and Kathryn Thomas, Pete Thomas, Lander Thomas, Joanna and Blake Gill; his sister, Dianna Thomas; his grandchildren, Jon-Ashton Dykes, Lily Thomas, Abrie Thomas, Landry Thomas, Evelyn Thomas, Rush Thomas, Eleanor Thomas, and Everett Thomas; sisters in law and brothers in law, Susan and Richard Love, Karen and Jimmy Miller, Laura and Jerry Jones, Carol and Todd Campbell; also numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, R.O. and Nelline Thomas, brothers Kerry Thomas and Richie Thomas, two infant siblings, father in law and mother in law Harold and Shirley Pitre, nephew Jonathan Love.

Pallbearers will be Randy Strickland, Steve Knight, Barry Seal, Justin Brown, Chaplin Smalley, and Sean Erwin.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial donations to the Thomas Cemetery Fund (mailing address, 51846 Lawrence Creek Road, Franklinton, LA 70438).

Visitation will be from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Franklinton, (903 Cleveland Street, Franklinton, LA) on Monday, October 2, 2023. A funeral service will be held in the church at 2:00 pm Monday with Rev. Richard Magee, Rev. Tom Descant and Rev. Harold Gaddy officiating. Graveside services will follow at Thomas Memorial Gardens.

# Tribute Wall



“ May Almighty Father God bless and comfort the family 🙏💖💖🙏💖🙏💖🙏💖🙏💖🙏💖🙏💖



Anthony Martin and jashon Johnson martin - January 22 at 10:39 PM



“ Lou Ann and family, I am very sorry for your loss. I have known Jerry for at least forty years. He was always very kind and accommodating to me. The people of Washington Parish will greatly miss his dedication as a public servant and physician.

Dewitt Bateman, MD

Dewitt Bateman, MD - October 02, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Jerry Thomas.

October 01, 2023 at 05:21 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Jerry Thomas.



October 01, 2023 at 05:21 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Jerry Thomas.

October 01, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Dr. Thomas passing Thomas will miss him. Probably 50 years rented the beautiful old place he has for a home. After we moved after the home just sat there he had a vision and had restored to the beautiful home it is now. God bless and comfort his family and all of the community. We lost a great man.

**Paul and Ruth Bailey** - October 01, 2023 at 05:14 AM



“ Dennis Bates lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas



**Dennis Bates** - October 01, 2023 at 02:20 AM



“ Waltham Dems lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas



**Waltham Dems** - September 30, 2023 at 07:35 PM

BL

“ I remember baby sitting the kids when they were little and I also remember he saved my dad's life prayer for the family and the community 🙏

Becky (Penton) Ladner - September 30, 2023 at 06:36 PM

JV

“ Dianne & family from Jeff Vogt, So so sorry for your loss. Dr Jerry was an excellent athlete, I enjoyed playing Basketball with him, way back for Coach Deas at Thomas High School and watching him achieve all that he had since then including his leadership as a member of the La House of Representatives and a Physician always looking out for our Thomas community. By far the most prolific individual and outstanding man in our Thomas History. I will miss my cousin and his accomplishments in our Hometown.

Jeffery B Vogt - September 30, 2023 at 09:28 AM

FC

Coach Diana Thomas and Dr. Jerry's family  
Each and everyone of you sweet precious folks are on my mind, and in my thoughts and prayers as you together lay Your precious priceless Dr. Thomas to rest .love all of you'll  
Faye Dykes Carney  
Spring Creek High School

faye Dykes Carney - October 01, 2023 at 11:32 AM



“ he was a great doctor. and my uncle's good friend.



Jacquie Martin - September 29, 2023 at 07:00 PM

LG

“ *Lisa Gerald lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas*



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**lisa gerald** - September 29, 2023 at 04:45 PM

RB

“ *What an awesome gentleman!! Dr. Jerry was larger than life here in our community! Always helping my family and so many others! His passing is a great loss to the Robert Boone family! My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.*

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**Robert Boone** - September 29, 2023 at 09:37 AM

GB

“ *Gladys Breland lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas*



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**Gladys Breland** - September 29, 2023 at 01:37 AM

GL

“ *Goldie Love LeBlanc lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas*



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**Goldie Love LeBlanc** - September 28, 2023 at 10:14 PM

GL

*Sending up prayers for the Thomas family. Fly high Jerry!! Please tell Jonathan we live and miss him*

**Goldie Love LeBlanc** - September 28, 2023 at 10:17 PM

JB

“ *John Bankston lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas*



**John Bankston** - September 28, 2023 at 06:35 PM

JB

*Thank you Dr. Jerry Thomas for your care and service.*

**John Bankston** - September 28, 2023 at 06:37 PM



*Sorry about your loss of your dad*

**Brandi Wallace** - September 28, 2023 at 06:43 PM

JN

“ *Joy Nielson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas*



**Joy Nielson** - September 28, 2023 at 03:48 PM

JO

“ I met Dr Jerry Thomas during a Family gathering in summer of 2023. It is a shame that we'll never be able to conclude our fun conversations. Farewell



John - September 28, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ He was the best science teacher I ever had at Bowling Green. What a wonderful man he was to his God, his family and his community! He was an amazing mentor to so many young people with his public service.

Dedria Givens-Carroll - September 28, 2023 at 02:37 PM

PS

“ Phillip Stewart lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerry Thomas



Phillip Stewart - September 28, 2023 at 01:40 PM