



Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.

April 7, 1942 - December 24, 2015

Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas, Jr. 73, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, passed away on December 24, 2015, at the Earlene Howard Hospice Home - Circle of Life, Springdale, Arkansas. Louie was born on April 7, 1942, in Los Angeles, California to Louis Audrey Thomas, Sr. and Eilene Vernon Thomas.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, William "Billy" Vernon. Louie was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and a special friend to many. Louie is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Mary Eagan Thomas of Siloam Springs; two daughters, Audra and husband John Farrell of Siloam Springs and Lucinda and husband Hank Jenks of Watts, Oklahoma; two sisters, Linda and husband Paul Galyean of Decatur; Carol Nichols of Siloam Springs and one sister-in-law, Thelma Vernon Turner of Siloam Springs; and four very special grandchildren, Linsey Samuels, Clint Jenks, Lainey Samuels and Andy Jenks; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and a community of friends.

Louie was a graduating member of the Siloam Springs High School Class of 1960. He attended John Brown University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education. He earned his Masters of Education from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He served the Siloam Springs School District with 31 years of teaching service and 14 years as a member of the School Board.

One of Louie's best attributes was he loved people and especially helping people. Louie faithfully served the Lord and his community in Siloam Springs where he touched the lives of many. His mission work also extended over the years to Ecuador, Africa, and Canada. He was a 50 year member and deacon of First Baptist Church.

The family invites you to celebrate the life of Louie at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 30, 2015, at First Baptist Church in Siloam Springs. His final resting place will be in Oak Hill Cemetery held privately with his family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Circle of Life Hospice, 901 Jones Road, Springdale, AR 72762; First Baptist Church Missions Fund, 2000 Dawn Hill Road, Siloam Springs, AR 72761; Siloam Springs High School Scholarship Fund, 700 N. Progress Avenue, Siloam Springs, AR 72761; Office of Human Concerns, 506 E. Spruce Street, Rogers, AR 72757; or the Genesis House, 1402 N. Inglewood, Siloam Springs, AR 72761.

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness, prayers, stories and the numerous reflections of faith and compassion from those who are blessed to have known Louie. With all our love, the Thomas Family.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 30. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
2000 Dawn Hill Rd.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
<http://www.fbcsiloam.com>

Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Carleen Gamble Weisz lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.*



Carleen Gamble Weisz - January 01, 2016 at 05:03 PM

TB

“ *Our community has lost a good man. The first memory I have of Louie was when I was in his mother's fourth grade class. I was happy to have him as my teacher in eighth grade. I still smile when I think of some of the "Louie-isms" he would share with our classes and in the halls. Throwing erasers at sleeping students ~ there was only one Coach Thomas! He always came to our class reunions to keep up with everyone and share a few laughs. As an adult, he never failed to stop, say hello and give me a hug. He was always encouraging, as only he could be. Coach Thomas, here's to you ~ until we meet again. Mary, sending you and the girls prayers.*

With great love and respect ~

Teresa G. Beasley - December 31, 2015 at 04:37 PM

LA

“ *To my favorite football coach ever and one of the greatest men I ever knew. Coach Thomas I will miss you.*

Larry Anderson

Larry Anderson - December 30, 2015 at 01:02 PM

JK

“*Louie had a major impact not on only my life, but also my children's lives. He taught me not only to work with my hands and tools. He also quided me and my children threw real life events. Mary, you also have always been good to me and my children. I thank you both for the love you've shared with our schools and community. May God bless you and your family threw this time.*

Janetta Kindle - December 30, 2015 at 11:23 AM

BA

“*What a loss of a kind hearted man, he will be missed! Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the family and friends who miss him already. Bob and Trena Ames*

Bobby and Trena Ames - December 30, 2015 at 10:14 AM

TJ

“*So sorry for the loss of this nice man. It was an honor to work with this man, His family is in our thoughts and prayers. Tom and Sue Jones*

Tom and Sue Jones - December 30, 2015 at 10:11 AM

TM

“*An honor and pleasure to work for you and with you! A joy to have had your grandchildren, Linsey and Lainey, in our school. Memories of your laughter and stories bring a smile.*

"Louie", Mr. Thomas, touched so many lives. A difference maker who was committed to ensuring the best for all of the Siloam Springs students. He will be missed, but not forgotten.

Teresa Morgan, Principal, SSMS

Teresa Morgan - December 30, 2015 at 08:52 AM



“ I have so many memories of Louie, he was mine and Sean Ward's BC teacher in High School. He taught me so much that year and not only about BC... He taught me patients, how to have a positive attitude and that I could do anything if I set my mind to it and if I really wanted to do it I would succeed in doing it, whatever it was! I also remember him helping Sean build me a hope chest in class! (: He was so into making it just perfect! He was a wonderful man and will be missed by tons of people! His family will be in my thoughts and prayers also!



Tonja Risley Williamson - December 29, 2015 at 10:35 PM

VS

“ Louie was a unique person: unselfish, caring, untiring in his service for others. He leaves a huge void for others to fill. My love and prayers to the family. Vivian Stockton

Vivian Stockton - December 29, 2015 at 09:43 PM

TE

“ *Siloam Springs is well known as an amazing place to live. The reason has more to do with its people than its wonderful landscapes. Louie Thomas is, in many ways, the face of Siloam Springs. He represents all that is good about our community - love, forgiveness, humor, family, faith, and so much more. Louie has always been a positive force whether teaching students how to build or wire a house, serving his church, moving an old house down the street, serving a charity, or making decisions on the school board. He has left an imprint that will be long remembered here in our town. Only God can repay a man such as Louie. As a citizen my debt to the past must be paid to the future. I can't help but think of Louie's parents, especially his mother Aileen, who left such a positive mark on my life. I told Louie of this often. May God surround the family with peace and love at such a time.*

*Sincerely,
Tim Estes*

Tim Estes - December 29, 2015 at 04:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr..*



December 29, 2015 at 03:58 PM

Cheryl
Perkins

“ Cheryl Perkins lit a candle in memory of Louis
"Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.



Cheryl Perkins - December 29, 2015 at 01:29 PM

PP

“ Mary,
Thinking of you and your family. Prayers and love from all of us.
We will miss Louie.

From Dr. W.D. Harris and Staff

pam price - December 29, 2015 at 09:36 AM

LS

“ LaWanna Shelley lit a candle in memory of
Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.



LaWanna Shelley - December 28, 2015 at 10:01 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the
family of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr..



December 28, 2015 at 12:51 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr..



December 28, 2015 at 11:09 AM



“ I had the pleasure of serving on the board at Office of Human Concern with Louie. He always had a pragmatic approach to any issues the board discussed along with a great sense of humor! Definitely a life well lived...

Debbie Rambo - December 28, 2015 at 09:51 AM



“ My first memories of Coach Thomas were not in school but as a young boy who attended First Baptist church with he and Mary. I thought it was so cool when he would play football with us in the gravel parking lot and especially cool when I had his mother Mrs. Thomas as my 4th grade teacher. When I think of Coach Thomas multiple things come to mind... his old blue truck, hauling hay with him for penny's, stories galore and ribbing's. All the while knowing he cared, loved and wanted the best for each person he came in contact with. Certainly a life lived well!
Ken Sutterfield

Ken Sutterfield - December 28, 2015 at 08:47 AM

PL

“ *Jajja Louie (Grandpa Louie) as the Children at the Orphans' Home in Uganda fondly called and remember him. He loved the Children with every fibre of his life, with every drop of energy in him. The Children were amazed by stories of the grandpa from America who moved houses. We will all miss Louie, even though we covet him for having run and finished well the race. Till we meet again.*



Pastor Zijjan David Livingstone - December 28, 2015 at 05:40 AM

 David Woods

“ *Coach Thomas always treated me with respect.....On and off the football field 45 years ago. He saw me for who I am and not who others thought I was. Coach Thomas always took up for me.*



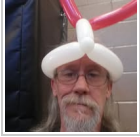
*He could spot me on the other side of Walmart and make a point to talk to me. He never forgot my face. Our conversations were always filled with laughter. *

Louie, you were always one of my favorite people. I have much respect for you my friend and you will be missed.

There is this one saying you use to say that I never forgot back in my Jr. High years. "Who's the meanest man in the world?"

David Woods

David Woods - December 27, 2015 at 08:29 PM



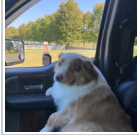
“ Coach Thomas was a Man of Men. He was a FIRM hand Coaching...ZERO grey area. He taught me losing was part of learning to win.
In History he had me do a Semester Report on Ezekiel Proctor, the ONLY single man the U.S. Government made a peace treaty with. The next semester he had me trace my genealogy only to discover Ezekiel Proctor was my Great, Great Grandfather!
You didn't have to want to learn aound this MAN...If you were in class, YOU LEARNED.
Thank You for helping to mold me into the man I am today Coach Thomas.
Like you, I do my best to pay it forward whenever I can.

Jerry Sixkiller - December 27, 2015 at 06:38 PM

SP

“ Praying for peace and comfort that only our Lord can give for all of you. Love and prayers,
Glenn and Shermana (Sam) Philpott

Shermana Philpott - December 27, 2015 at 02:19 PM



“ The first day I had class with Coach Thomas he excitedly exclaimed "you're Art Jacobs little sister"! Oh he was right, that's who I was but gosh was he in for a shock. As he discover I was nothing like Art. We went round and round debating historical points. At one point he said , "Jacobs one day you will figure out you cannot paddle upstream your whole life" at which time I insisted not only could I but I would. I pretty much have. The reason I mention this story is because Coach and I finally not only came to a place of mutual respect but he made it ok for me to be an "out of the box" thinker. He supported the principle of standing for your personal convictions no matter the cost but to realize there would always be consequences. I respected Coach Thomas and appreciate all that he taught me. He showed me how to step out of myself and look at other perspectives. That is the the true mission a a teacher and he nailed it. The world has lost a great leader. My prayers go out to his friends and family. He will be sorely missed by those who will never know him as "Coach"

Terri Hager - December 27, 2015 at 11:15 AM

TE

“ Thanks for everything coach Thomas.

Tim Elliott

Tim Elliott - December 27, 2015 at 05:00 AM

AJ

“ "Coach" Thomas was one of the greatest men I have ever known. With his caring and discipline, he instilled life and work ethics in me and many young men growing up in Siloam Springs. He loved his wife and family very much. He will truly be missed in the community.

Art Jacobs

Art Jacobs - December 26, 2015 at 08:04 PM

FR

“ *Louie was a wonderful mentor to my son, for which I am forever grateful. I always enjoyed his company.*

Frank Huebert

Frank - December 26, 2015 at 11:09 AM

TD

“ *Louis never gave up on me he was always there within encouraging word and he'd say I knew you could do it coach Thomas and Odelle Are the reason I stayed in school and got my diploma he was one of those special people that could do anything and I will miss his cheerful smile*

terry devor - December 26, 2015 at 09:11 AM



“ *I can honestly say that I am a better man for having had "Coach Thomas" as a mentor in my life when I was in a formative stage. I learned that actions had consequences and that knowledge has shaped my decision making process ever since. Thanks, Louie!*

Stephen C. Hill - December 26, 2015 at 08:15 AM



“ *Melelia Pools lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.*



Melelia Pools - December 25, 2015 at 10:57 PM



Louie was a wonderful man. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. With love, Leasa Bynum Souza.

Melelia Pools - December 25, 2015 at 10:59 PM

LH

“ *Mary,
We are so sorry for your loss. We pray God's Peace for you and your family during this difficult time.
Linda & Jim Harvill and Luke O'Dell*

Linda Harvill - December 25, 2015 at 08:34 PM

PG

“ *My son Mike Griffin was impressed by Louie as his teacher, he gave him encouragement that he needed. Louie was an awesome teacher ,I am sure you have been told before, Great guy to know as a friend. Sending prayers to his family and comfort from God during this sad time for the family. Can't say how sorry we are for the family. Phyllis and David Griffin and family*

Phyllis Griffin - December 25, 2015 at 07:40 PM

TD

“ *I remember when Louie first came to Siloam Springs High School. He and I ran track together, and he could always beat me by just a little bit. Over the years we remained friends and he would come to the scrap yard to get things he needed for his part-time business. Everyone who lives in Siloam Springs knows who Louie was as he was a friend to everyone he met. I am sorry to hear of his home-going, but know that God called his faithful servant home. We are praying that God will give you peace and comfort during this difficult time. Tom Dixon*

Tom Dixon - December 25, 2015 at 06:55 PM

RB

Coach Thomas.... Was such a motavator while he molded us in school but what was really great was how interested he was in your career after school !!! He was always at our reunions asking how and what we where doing. He sincerely cared about his students even after there education was complete just like we were his own sun or daughter... Louie was an example of what God wants us all to be !!! He will be missed and I look forward seeing him again... God be with your family and give them faith that he is with them always !!!
Dickie Brenner

Richard Brenner - December 27, 2015 at 08:43 AM

 Leah Robertson

“*Going to miss this special man. He was one of the first Siloam citizens my husband and I met in Siloam Springs. It was 6 in the morning at Cathy's Corner. We didn't know we just met such a pillar in the community but somehow he did know we were new to the community. Probably because we were sitting in his or one of his friends' usual seats! Ha! He squeezed in beside us and began talking to us and that very morning helped us find our builder. Shortly after that, we figured out we attended the same church. We so enjoyed serving with Louie and we knew he was our go to guy when we needed information or advice. Louie and Mary have loved on us for 8 years now and we are better people for knowing them. Love to the family, Leah and Damon Robertson*

Leah Robertson - December 25, 2015 at 05:15 PM

MR

“*Louie was a hero to me through all my years in school. As well as the years after . Think the world of him.*
Mike Reading

Mike Reading - December 25, 2015 at 04:52 PM

RE

“ *What a wonderful gentleman! Glad I got to one him thru my years working at the high school cafeteria. He would always come visit with a smile on his face and a hearty hello to us all! He will be deeply missed.*

rebecca eggert - December 25, 2015 at 03:42 PM

SM

“ *Louie was a great ambassador for Siloam Springs, Genesis House, and his church. His quiet and comfortable way of making us feel welcome to the community is a memory that we will always treasure. Rest in peace Louie and may God bring rest and peace to all who mourn his passing now. Sharon and Harvey McCone*

Sharon and Harvey McCone - December 25, 2015 at 03:23 PM

LH

“ *Lucinda & family....we are so sorry for your loss. May your memories & God's love bring you peace, comfort & strength at this difficult time. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal but LOVE leaves a memory no one can steal.*




Larry & Lana Hurt - December 25, 2015 at 02:12 PM

JW

“ *Jullie Paine Wallace lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.*



Jullie Paine Wallace - December 25, 2015 at 01:07 PM

 Debra
LeRoy-
Mackey

“ *Louie will be missed greatly. He was a great teacher and all around great person. RIP Louie and may God comfort your family.* ”



Debra LeRoy-Mackey - December 25, 2015 at 11:45 AM

BS

“ *Your family is in my thoughts and prayers, so sorry for your loss. Louie and I attended JBU at the same time and I also worked with him in the Siloam Springs Schools. And, our families are connected through Lucinda and Hank. Love all of you. May God's peace and strength be yours during this time.* ”

Betty Southerland - December 25, 2015 at 10:42 AM

RV

“ *Louie Was Cut From A Special Mold..... I was in His First Class Of Students, At Siloam Springs Jr Hi. He Was Firm, Fair & Fun; 'Mr Thomas'. I'll Never Forget Him. I Hope I Can Influence As Many Lives In A Positive Way As Louie Did..... God Bless The Family.* ”

Randy Vohs - December 25, 2015 at 10:07 AM



“ *louie was one of kind man he was a great teacher and great friend. he showed me so much in school and when I worked for him. he will be missed very much by so many.* ”

Steve Teel - December 25, 2015 at 09:15 AM



“ Steve Teel lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.



Steve Teel - December 25, 2015 at 09:07 AM

JS

“ I will never forget the day he drove his tractor to school and parked out front in the parking lot. You will be missed. Praying for the family. Jan (Thurman) Stacy

jan stacy - December 25, 2015 at 08:53 AM

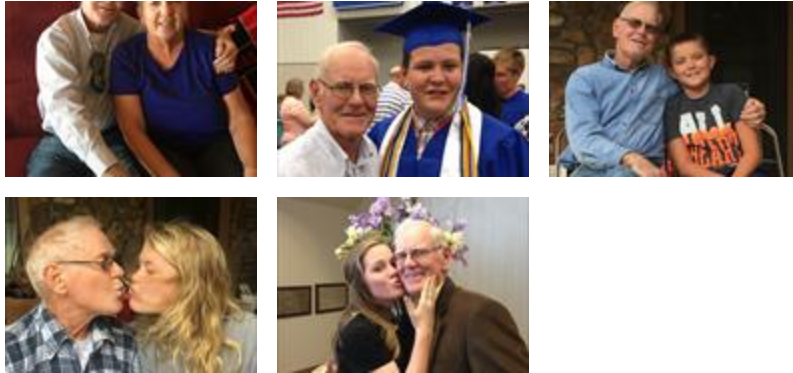
DC

“ Louie was truly a pillar of the community. He was known by so many people and loved by most all. He never failed to smile and say hi when I would see him. He is a person that our town will miss, regardless of your generation. My family and I know he is receiving his just rewards and our prayers go to his family and friends. Don Carpenter

Donald Carpenter - December 24, 2015 at 09:29 PM

AF

“ 5 files added to the album *Louie's Memorable Moments*



Audra Farrell - December 24, 2015 at 09:26 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Linsey Samuels - December 24, 2015 at 09:19 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lainey Samuels - December 24, 2015 at 09:17 PM

PN

“ Mr. Thomas was a very special man to me. He was my teacher in high school, and as a family friend he officiated at my first wedding. He also officiated at my Dads funeral. He will be greatly missed, and the world is a little less bright without him. His family is in my prayers.

Pamela Kaufman Norton - December 24, 2015 at 08:12 PM



“ Fabian Rutherford lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.



Fabian Rutherford - December 24, 2015 at 07:30 PM

CT

“ Cathy Taft lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.



cathy taft - December 24, 2015 at 06:37 PM

SC

“ Shirley Williams Cayce lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.



Shirley Williams Cayce - December 24, 2015 at 03:19 PM



“ *Louie was a great man, he will surely be missed by all.
Prayers from:
Mary Brown, Andy Shreve Family, Scott Shreve Family and Karin
Shreve Lea Family*

Karin Lea - December 24, 2015 at 02:58 PM

KC

“ *Kathy LeRoy Clark lit a candle in memory of
Louis "Louie" Audrey Thomas Jr.*



Kathy LeRoy Clark - December 24, 2015 at 02:34 PM

KC

My condolences to Louie's family. Louie was a great man. Always smiling, he never forgot a face, he was a fun teacher and a very kind man. I am happy I knew him, he will be missed by many.

Kathy LeRoy Clark - December 24, 2015 at 02:38 PM

GS

“ *What a great teacher this man was. There was several times in that year he and his assistant coach made the entire laugh. His mother was also a wonderful teacher I was blessed to have both. Louis was a pillar in this town and he will greatly be missed. Praying for the awesome family that he left behind. But he is celebrating Christmas with the reason for the season.*

Georgia Harris student/nurse - December 24, 2015 at 12:08 PM

DS

Louie and I were voted biggest tease our senior year. We had so many good times. Went to Glorietta, N.M. with him a couple of times on a mission trip to learn how to work with sr. hi young people. When my son, Tim was hurt so badly in j1990, Louie was the first person to Springdale Hospital . It must have been 4 or 5 in the morning. I was so glad to see him. Thru the years Louie has always been there for us. He was our Chamber Pioneer citizen a couple years ago and oh, so deserving. So glad he was honored. Louie has won many awards in school and the community. Now, Louie has earned the greatest reward - his home in Heaven. He leaves behind lovely daughters and precious grandchildren and Mary who always stood behind him. May God bless and comfort this special family in the days ahead.

Donetta & Loyd Samuels - December 26, 2015 at 09:35 PM