



## James E. "Jet" Thomas

October 16, 1953 - June 7, 2010

The son and brother of Bluffton residents, James E. "Jet" Thomas, 56, of Elgin, Ill., died at 4:57 p.m. Monday, June 7, 2010, at Rosewood Nursing Care of Elgin.

Mr. Thomas was born in Anderson on Oct. 16, 1953, to James E. Thomas Sr., and Verna May (VanEmon) Ross.

A 1972 graduate of Bluffton High School, Mr. Thomas played in the band during his high school years. He worked at the Red Cross in Bluffton and Tonka in Fort Wayne while completing training in electronics at ITT Tech.

He moved to Illinois in 1974. He worked for Motorola Inc. in Arlington Heights for 30 years. He was the Senior Product Designer of Strategic Operations of the Cellular Infrastructure Division of Motorola Inc. He was a former Masonic Lodge Member.

Mr. Thomas is survived by his companion, Denise Lederle of Elgin, Ill., who cared for him during his three year illness, and her son Ismael Vasquez, also of Elgin, Ill.

He is also survived by his mother, of Bluffton; one sister, Julia (Kevin) Taylor, of Bluffton; two brothers, John R. Thomas and David Ross, both of Bluffton; one step brother, Skip Ross of Bluffton; and one step sister, Dreama Hamilton of Alexandria.

He was preceded in death by his father; one step sister, Vicky Miller; one half-sister, Jerris Thomas; and one nephew, Logan Ross.

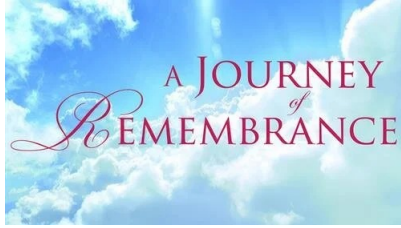
Calling hours will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney and Lemler Funeral Home, 308 W. Washington St., Bluffton. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, at the funeral home, with Pastor Bud Abrams officiating. Burial is at Six Mile Cemetery, in Bluffton.

Online condolences: [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James E. "Jet" Thomas*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - June 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *James E. "Jet" Thomas*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I am part of the BHS Class of 1972. I want to extend my sympathy to the family and friends Jim leaves behind, especially his companion/caretaker. I will most remember Jim from our days in junior high band playing clarinet. We were together almost all the way through school. I still have our pictures from grade school. He is part of many fond memories. God bless.##imported-begin##Valerie Wilson Jackson##imported-end##*

June 15, 2010 at 07:51 PM



“ *I had the honor to work with Jimmy for many years. He was an honest person and never minced words. A rare quality in today's word. May he rest in peace.*

*-Rimpi##imported-begin##Rimpi Bains##imported-end##*

June 14, 2010 at 08:57 AM



“ I have fond memories of doing cool things with JET. I can honestly say that he was one of my very best friends. We both attended De Molay meetings together, suffered through long days at Bluffton High school. Jim will be missed and a day won't go by with out my thoughts being on all the fun stuff we did together. My fondest memory is when he and I would ride around in his black convertible. I think that it was the first car he ever owned. The last time I spoke with James was at our 20th high school reunion. Rest in peace go friend.##imported-begin##DOUGLAS E. MYERS##imported-end##

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June 10, 2010 at 03:46 PM



“ Verna Mae,

*I want to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family over the lost of your son. I do pray that you will find comfort through your church, your family and your friends. I can not imagine how hard it would be to loose a child. I know how hard it was for my mother, when she lost one of my brothers. I will keep you in my prayers and may you find comfort from those you love. Armatha##imported-begin##Armatha Hook Green##imported-end##*

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June 09, 2010 at 09:22 PM