



Constance "Connie" L. Thomas

December 26, 1937 - January 25, 2025

Constance "Connie" L. Thomas, age 87 of Mattoon, IL passed away on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home in Mattoon, IL. A Mass of the Resurrection celebrating her life will be held at 11:00 AM, Monday, February 3, 2025, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 320 N. 21st Street, Mattoon, IL 61938. A private service will immediately follow at Calvary Cemetery in Mattoon, IL. The visitation will be held at 10:00 AM the same day at the church. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938, is in charge of services.

Connie was born on December 26, 1937, in Effingham, IL to the late Wendell E. and Kathryn B. (Sur) Howell. She married Vernon W. "Bud" Thomas Jr. on September 8, 1956, in Mattoon, IL; he preceded her in death on August 5, 2013. She is survived by three sons: Mark E. Thomas and wife Cathy of Charleston, IL, Doug A. Thomas and wife Janet of Mattoon, IL, Michael W. Thomas and wife Kristie of Lerna, IL; one daughter-in-law, Martha Thomas of Onalaska, WI; one sister, Nancy S. Fleming of Oceanside, CA; eight grandchildren: Laura Kapp and husband Aaron of Lebanon, IL, Tony Thomas of Phoenix, AZ, Matthew Thomas of Berlin, Germany, Josie Thomas of Marion, IA, AJ Thomas and wife Leah of St. Louis, MO, Mason Thomas and wife Angie of Mattoon, IL, Makenna Thomas of St. Louis, MO, Brett Thomas of Murrieta, CA; two step grandchildren; Scott Hoene and wife Sarah of Neoga, IL, Becky Gajewski and husband Mick of Ashley, IL; five great-grandchildren; seven step great grandchildren; and several nieces and

nephews. She was preceded in death by one son, Greg W. Thomas; one sister, Janice Hall; and one step grandchild, Aaron Hoene.

Connie was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Mattoon, IL. She received her Master of Education from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL. In 1993, she retired from Mattoon Community Unit School District 2 as a teacher at Bennett Elementary School for twenty-two dedicated years. She held memberships at the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, multiple teachers' organizations including, a lifetime member of National Education Association, Mattoon Education Association and Coles County Retired Teachers Association, and was a Bridge Club member. Prior to teaching, Connie was employed at Meadow Gold Dairy. Following her retirement, Connie and her husband Bud spent several winter months in Florida before permanently moving there in 1997. They both enjoyed the warm weather, strolling the beach, golfing, and visits from their family and friends.

While living in Florida, Connie was an active member of St. John Vianney Catholic Church and served as Extra Ordinary Minister. She was also an active member of the Legion of Mary and Christ Renews His Parish.

A life well lived, dedicated to God, serving others, and a pillar in her family.

This loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend will be deeply missed, and her memory will be forever treasured.

Memorial donations in her honor may be made to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Mattoon, IL 61938

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
320 N 21st St
Mattoon, IL 61938-2731
(217) 235-0539

Service

FEB 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
320 N 21st St
Mattoon, IL 61938-2731
(217) 235-0539

Tribute Wall



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

February 02, 2025 at 11:44 PM



“ Connie was our neighbor and friend in Treasure Island Fl for years. We became very close as Connie would spend afternoons with us in our condo chatting. We would take Connie to different ethnic restaurants she was not familiar with and always had a good laugh. She would say we didn't have this in Matoon. She will truly be missed but we know where she is now knowing her deep faith. Rest in Peace our friend, we will miss you.

Guy & Elaine Petix - January 31, 2025 at 12:21 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Constance "Connie" L. Thomas.



January 30, 2025 at 01:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Constance "Connie" L. Thomas.

January 29, 2025 at 09:58 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Constance "Connie" L. Thomas.*



January 29, 2025 at 09:58 PM



“ *Connie was a wonderful inspiration for me when I joined the CRHP sisters. We spent many happy hours together along with a couple sad ones. I loved her. Gloria Dempsey from Nova Scotia Canada.* ❤️
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gloria dempsey - January 29, 2025 at 08:46 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Constance "Connie" L. Thomas.*



January 29, 2025 at 10:08 AM

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“*Connie was always there for me when I began my career at Bennett Elementary School. She knew the ropes and taught me so many life lessons. She was a no nonsense person and she always had an opinion about whatever the conversation topic. I especially loved her go to phrase when she was not sure, she simply said, "Whatever!". Simply put and the conversation went on again. She bestowed the honor to me by stating I was her fifth son, and I cherish this sentiment to this day. Thank you Connie for laying the foundation for my career and always loving me and my family. She never forgot a birthday or anniversary and one could always expect to receive a card from her. With a broken heart I must say goodbye to you but know you shall always live in my heart and soul until we meet again.*

Clyde Self - January 28, 2025 at 07:31 AM

FO

“*I have known the Thomas Family since my teen age years in Boy Scout Troop 152. Bud, Mark, Greg, Doug and Mike were involved with the troop. Bud was so good to volunteer his services on camp outs. I have fond memories of The Thomas Family. Connie will be missed by all of her family members and friends. Eternal rest grant unto her soul, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God. Rest peace. Amen. I will offer my prayers for The Thomas Family. Fr. Edward Ohm.*



Fr. Edward Ohm - January 27, 2025 at 09:25 PM