



Ray Earl Thompson Sr.

August 2, 1926 - June 14, 2019

Ray Earl Thompson, Sr., 92, of Spartanburg, SC, passed away Friday, June 14, 2019 of complications from a fall. Born August 2, 1926 in Spartanburg, SC, he was the son of the late Willard Sanford and Carrie Lou Tapp Thompson. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 58 years, Evelene "Effie" Wilson Thompson.

Mr. Thompson was a member of St. James Methodist Church. He graduated from Spartanburg High School in 1944. Ray proudly served his country in World War II in the U.S. Navy from 1944-1946 and enjoyed sharing his military experiences with many school groups and grandchildren. He was a life member of Mill Village Masonic Lodge and Hejaz Shrine Temple, a former member of Three Pines Country Club, a charter member of Carolina Country Club, and past president of Spartanburg Boys Home from 1975-1976.

Mr. Thompson started as a newspaper carrier for the Spartanburg Herald-Journal in 1939. He was a production foreman from 1947-1967, circulation director from 1967-1980, and retired as general manager in 1985.

Ray was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and neighbor to many. His joy in life came from serving others. One way he served was giving out his homemade cheese straws, which he did until the last week of his life. Ray and Effie enjoyed many rounds of golf with friends over the years. "Ray-Ray" will be greatly missed by his family whom he loved unconditionally.

Survivors include four children: Lynn Thompson of Simpsonville, SC, Kim Godwin (Winston) of Weddington, NC, Ray E. (Chuck) Thompson, Jr. (Maria) of Spartanburg, SC, and Jane Godwin (David) of Greenville, SC; 11 grandchildren, Will Fowler, Ben Fowler, Ashley Brown, Anna Kendrick, Courtney Spaulding, Kimberly Guy, Amy Bundrick, Mary-Chase Gillis, Alan Godwin, Luke Godwin, Jennifer Dwight; 20 great-grandchildren with 3 more on the way; and a brother, Lewis Thompson of High Point, NC. He was predeceased by a sister, Dot Wofford.

The family would like to thank special friends, Sam and Chara Hosom and their family, for their love and support.

Visitation will be at 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at Floyd's Greenlawn Chapel, 2075 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29307. A Celebration of Life service will be at 12:30 PM at the chapel, conducted by The Rev. Blake Kendrick. Burial will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, 1300 Fernwood-Glendale Road, Spartanburg, SC 29307.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. James United Methodist Church, 213 N. Lanford Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301 or to Mobile Meals Service, P.O. Box 461, Spartanburg, SC 29304

Floyd's Greenlawn Chapel

Cemetery

**Greenlawn Memorial
Gardens**
1300 Fernwood-Glendale Rd
Spartanburg, SC, 29307

Events

JUN 18 Visitation 11:00AM - 12:15PM
Floyd's Greenlawn Chapel
2075 E Main St, Spartanburg, SC, US, 29307

JUN 18 A Celebration of Life 12:30PM
Floyd's Greenlawn Chapel
2075 E Main St, Spartanburg, SC, US, 29307

JUN 18 Burial
Greenlawn Memorial Gardens
1300 Fernwood-Glendale Rd, Spartanburg, SC, US,
29307

Comments



“ Each year, every third grader takes home a Bonnie cabbage plant (for the purpose of planting it, taking care of it, and bringing back a picture of it along with measurements — since those plants can get HUGE). Mr. Ray let all of the Hosom boys plant their cabbage plants in his garden, made them take care of them (with his help, of course), and helped teach them responsibility. The boys and Chara talked about him like he was part of their family, he loved those boys like a grandfather, and they loved him in return. Whenever he came through the car line to pick up one (or more) of the three Hosom boys, their close relationship was visibly evident and very special. He always had a smile and sweet word for those of us opening car doors and calling car numbers, too, and helped us end our day on a happy note. Mr. Ray was a great man with a loving and kind heart, and I'm so sorry for your loss.

Olivia Boykin

Olivia Boykin - June 18 at 05:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray Earl Thompson Sr..



June 18 at 08:29 AM



“ Jim and I are so sorry to hear that Ray passed away. This wonderful kind gentleman changed my life in the mid 80's by helping me locate my biological family. This event led me to meet parents, brothers, sister, cousins, aunts and uncles. Ray was a great gift to all of us and we were blessed to have him so many years. May God be with Ray's family at this difficult time. Pat and Jim Glazener, Arden, NC

Pat and Jim Glazener - June 18 at 06:51 AM



“ Ray and my father Tom Pack walked together in the mornings when my parents lived in Woodland Heights. After my Dad passed Ray would come to Boiling Springs to visit my mother Ruth and bring cheese straws. He was truly a super hero. May God bless you all during this difficult time.

Evelyn Pack Livingston

Evelyn Pack Livingston - June 17 at 09:41 AM



“ Ray and I had many "quality times" together - golf, yard work, cutting wood, cooking out, and most of all "just being friends and good neighbors" - we could always count on each other for help in whatever needed to be done.

He will be missed by many for his caring and generosity.

My condolences to all the family during this difficult time,

Max Hyde, Sr.

Max HYde - June 17 at 07:57 AM



“ Lynn, Kim, Chuck and Jane- I am thinking of you and everyone in your family during these hard days. Uncle Ray was an amazing man and touched many people's lives. He was so proud of all of you, his grandkids and his great-grandkids. Way back when we were all kids ourselves playing together during holidays, I thought your dad had the best laugh of any adult around. May your memories of him bring you great comfort. Jan

Jan Thompson - June 16 at 08:27 PM



“ A wonderful, dear gentleman. I always enjoyed being in his presence. Larry

Larry Godwin - June 16 at 09:13 PM



“ Mr. Ray made the most delicious cheese straws! He would often deliver these to me while on car duty at Woodland Heights Elementary School while he was picking up a Hosom boy. He even filled a bag with candy for my four children at Halloween. He had a big heart and a great smile. He certainly blessed my life in these small encounters. I am very sorry for your loss.

Stacy Crump - June 16 at 08:18 PM



“ I ALSO WILL MISS MR. THOMPSON. HE BECAME A GOOD FRIEND WHEN I WAS DOING RESEARCH ON THE FAMILY NAME. HE GAVE ME GOOD CONTACTS AND WAS VERY HELPFUL. ANOTHER FRIEND AND I WOULD MEET HIM FOR LUNCH WHEN I WOULD COME FOR RESEARCH. HIS THOUGHTFUL AND NICE MANNER WILL NEVER BE FORGOTEN. THANK YOU DEAR FRIEND

FOR ALL THE GOOD DEEDS YOU HAVE DONE. --FERN GOLD

Fern Hall Gold - June 16 at 02:07 PM



“ Chuck,

So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this time of sorrow.

Susan Bishop



Susan Bishop - June 16 at 06:40 AM