



Irven Ira Thompson

October 14, 1939 - December 11, 2024

A leaf from the Thompson family tree fell this past Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Irven Ira Thompson, 85, lost his courageous battle with lung cancer alongside his family.

Irven was one of seven siblings born to Goldie and Alfred Thompson on October 14, 1939 in Inez, Kentucky. He graduated from Williamson High School in 1957. Around this time, Irven met Carole Mounts and they were high school sweethearts. The two were married on January 2, 1960, while Irven was still in the military. Following school, he then joined the U.S. Navy. Serving on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Lake Champlain, Irven represented a nation he proudly loved. His ship recovered Alan Shepard of the Freedom 7, the first manned space flight. Also during service, Irven detected a Russian submarine through diligent radar work.

After military duties, Irven worked at Southern Railway. He eventually advanced his career, becoming a Trainmaster for Norfolk Southern Railway. Moving to N.C., to raise his three children became the next joy of his life. Hard work and determination were values Irven prided himself on- always putting his family first. He was a true family man. His hard work shone through as he took his family on countless vacations to Hawaii, the Caribbean and of course the family's most sentimental: Anna Maria Island, F.L.

In retirement, Irven refused to have idle hands. Whether it was planting a rose garden for his wife, going to the Kentucky Derby with his best friends, hunting and fishing, attending sports games at UNC-Chapel Hill or taking his grandkids on pontoon boat rides on Lake Norman- Irven never ceased to provide and uplift.

He was preceded to heaven by his mother and father, his brother Ronald Thompson and sister Amarie Kennedy, as well as his infant son Mitchell.

Irven is survived by his darling wife of 64 years and mother to his children Carole Thompson of Mooresville, N.C.; their children Debbie Kelly (Joe) of Charlotte, N.C., Michael Thompson (Carla) of Raleigh, N.C. and Tommy Thompson (April) of Cary, N.C.; two grandchildren: Caroline and John Kelly; brothers Don, Lloyd, Harold and James as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

While our family has experienced the grave loss of Irven, we realize the far-reaching impact he's had and the loss many others in his community and church have experienced as well. To know Irven was to love him, even with all his witty jokes. Although he's no longer physically with us, we can all choose to honor his memory in the small things in life. Whether that's enjoying the serenity of the beach on vacation, a fresh cup of coffee in the morning, going to a Carolina Tar Heel ball game, writing poems to a loved one, finding gratitude in being around family- his memory and legacy remains with us. He was dearly loved by his family, friends and Christian brothers and sisters of the Lake Norman Church of Christ- he will be greatly missed. Irven's faith in God was strong; we all hope to be with him again one day in heaven.

- Written by his granddaughter, Caroline Grace Kelly

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 20, 2024, from 6:00 - 8:00

PM at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 21 at the chapel of Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville with Rev. Rob Albright officiating. Burial will follow the service at Holly Hill Memorial Park Cemetery, Thomasville, NC at 2:00 PM.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville is proudly serving the Thompson family.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Holly Hill Memorial Park Cemetery

401 West Holly Hill Road
Thomasville, NC 27360

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

DEC 20. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Funeral Service

DEC 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Chapel
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Graveside Service

DEC 21. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Holly Hill Memorial Park Cemetery
401 West Holly Hill Road
Thomasville, NC 27360

Tribute Wall

JT

“ James T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

James T. - December 21, 2024 at 08:25 AM

LK

“ Love from Kay Keller purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



Love from Kay Keller - December 20, 2024 at 05:50 AM

MM

“ Michelle Mills purchased the Simply Elegant Spatiphyllum for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



Michelle Mills - December 18, 2024 at 07:43 PM



“ Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



December 18, 2024 at 06:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

December 18, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



December 18, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ From: Benny, Shannon, Carl and Alex. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

Benny, Shannon, Carl and Alex. - December 18, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ Benny, Shannon, Carl and Alex. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



Benny, Shannon, Carl and Alex. - December 18, 2024 at 04:00 PM

DF

“ Doug Thompson and Family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

Doug Thompson and Family. - December 17, 2024 at 06:12 PM

DF

“ Doug Thompson and Family. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



Doug Thompson and Family. - December 17, 2024 at 06:12 PM

HF

“ Harold and Lisa and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



Harold and Lisa and Family - December 17, 2024 at 02:04 PM

SD

“ Sylvia D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

Sylvia D. - December 17, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

December 17, 2024 at 09:18 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Irven Ira Thompson.



December 17, 2024 at 09:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

December 17, 2024 at 07:38 AM



“ Bobby A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

Bobby A. - December 16, 2024 at 06:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Irven Ira Thompson.

December 16, 2024 at 10:26 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Iven Ira Thompson.*



December 16, 2024 at 10:26 AM



“ *Tommy and family, so sorry to hear of your father passing, please know you and family are in our prayers during this difficult time.*
Bobby and Sandy Faison, Newport News Va..

Bobby and Sandy Faison - December 15, 2024 at 10:55 PM