



Clayton E. Thomas

March 4, 1925 - December 2, 2009

Clayton E. Thomas, 84, Dover, passed away Wednesday, December 2, 2009. Clayton was born March 4, 1925 in Dover, the son of Everette J. and Lula Moran Thomas. He attended Highland and Dover schools. He served our country in the US Army, 103rd Infantry, during WWII. Clayton always said that he walked all over Europe. He was awarded two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal and a Purple Heart. Upon returning, he worked for Williams Wholesale Drug and worked construction for McClure Concrete. He ran the Mobile Service Station in Dover before going to work for Shawnee County, where he advanced to supervisor of the Bridge Dept. He retired in 1987 when he was able to devote more time to his real passion which was farming. On March 12, 1954, Clayton married Ida Olson Schutter, the only woman he ever loved and they enjoyed 55 years together. She survives. Clayton was a member of Dover Federated Church, was an honorary chapter member of Mission Valley High School FFA, a 60 year member of the Dover Masonic Lodge and the Order of Eastern Star, served on the Auburn Township board and was a member of the Dover American Legion. Other survivors include his children, Ronald Schutter and JoAnn, Eskridge, Kay Sanneman and Dewey, Cheney, Allana Barngrover, Topeka, Connie Miller, Dover, Paul Thomas and Joy, Auburn, and Everette Thomas and Judy, Harveyville; 17 grandchildren, Galen Schutter, Diane Burlew, John Schutter, Jason Schutter, Chris Hays, Debra Lathers, Bruce Hays, Lisa Friesen, Tony Sanneman, Thomas Sanneman, Katty Miller, Heather Dunlap, D.C. Sterbenz, Miya Godfrey, Allan Thomas,

Rick Thomas, and Melissa Schlegel; 31 great-grandchildren; a sister, Phyllis Gleason and Harold, Maple Hill; brother, Elden Thomas and Jerry, Burlingame; sister-in-law, Mary Thomas, Harveyville; and many nieces and nephews. Clayton was preceded in death by his parents; son, Allan Schutter; sisters, Geraldine and Betty Thomas; brother, Cecil Thomas; great-grandson, Quinton Schutter; and son-in-law, Dennis Miller. Family will greet friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, at Dover Federated Church. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Church. Burial will follow, with military honors provided by Fort Riley, at Dover Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Dover Community Center, to be used to build a picnic pavilion, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ Clayton E. Thomas

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ So sorry for your great loss. We got to meet Clayton at the summer county fair when our grandchildren Kayley, Wacey, and Bayley showed their pigs, which Clayton was very interested as he raised pigs. He gave each of the kids money for showing their pigs and also gave to our granddaughter Bayley which was not relation. What a nice thing to do. We enjoyed all the family coming down. Debra has told us many nice things about her grandpa and all the fun she had growing up and spending time on the farm with Grandpa and Grandma. Job well done Grandpa and you will be missed.

Fred & Gail Lathers - December 06, 2009 at 05:30 PM



“ So sorry to read of Clayton's passing. He was a very SPECIAL man to each and everyone of you.
You are ALL in my thoughts and Prayers in your time of emptiness and sorrow.....
God Bless You,
Sandra Oberhelman-Leidig

Sandra Oberhelman-Leidig - December 05, 2009 at 05:16 PM

DM

“ Dear Family of Clayton Thomas,
I would love to share with Ida and the family what I wrote years ago when I brother died after losing my husband a few years prior. I hope it brings you comfort.

***** From my book, “Life is a Choice” written in 1999, part of my first book, “Keep on the Sunny Side of Life.”

Many years after my husband’s death, still mourning Loren’s loss; my favorite brother, Bob Eastman, (age 54,) died a lingering cancer death and I spent many hours with him. I had time to console him with our childhood memories by laughs and our favorite taped music. As I sat with him during his last weeks, I spent time on the front porch outside his bedroom window in the porch swing when he slept. There was a big rose bush there that had not been manicured because his wife was busy keeping her head above water taking care of Bob and keeping her job.

One morning early with the dew on the roses and the sun shining on the dew (God’s angle,) I formed what I call my “Rose Bush Theory of Life and Death”

The Rose Bush Theory

I relate life and death to a big, beautiful rose bush. Picture a large blooming rose bush and you can see your family or circle of friends. Some of the roses are in full bloom with gorgeous color and perfect shapes. Some roses are starting to form buds. Some of the buds never complete the full growing process. Some of the roses are dead and remain on the bush, while others are starting to wither.

Now, relate each and every one of those blooms to different members of your family or your circle of friends and you can see the living and dying process. Life is a process with death being the final phase. Please do not wait ---- live life to the fullest each and every day.

Keep in mind, to maintain that “rose bush” (loved ones) big and

pretty, it must be fed, watered, nurtured, pruned and protected from the elements and loved with a gentle caress plus some tender talk. The care is more essential when caring for people. DM 1995

*Love and prayers,
Dorothy Masters
Harveyville*

Dorothy M Masters - December 05, 2009 at 09:55 AM

KS

“ *We love you grandpa!! He will be missed dearly!*

Kayla & Kristi Schuuter - December 04, 2009 at 10:44 PM