



## Grover C. Thomas

August 12, 1925 - October 29, 2017

Grover C. Thomas, 92, of Kearney, died Sunday, October 29, 2017 at his home.

Memorial services will be at 11:00 am Saturday at First Church of God. There will be no visitation, Mr. Thomas was cremated. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger is serving the family.

Memorials are suggested to the family. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com).

Grover Cleveland Thomas was born on August 12, 1925 in Silverton, Texas to Jephtha D. and Lula M. (Parish) Thomas. He grew up in Texas and graduated from Moran High School in 1944.

Grover entered the United States Navy in 1944 where he trained to become an underwater welder and deep-sea diver. During WWII he served on the USS Jason and several other ships. Grover was among the divers that recovered silver bars in the Bay of Japan. He was honorably discharged in 1951. Grover joined his fellow WWII vets for the first Buffalo County Hero Flight to Washington DC.

He was united in marriage to Fern Hatch on October 6, 1952 in Colorado. The

couple made their home in Wyoming where he worked as a mechanic and carpenter. They also owned and operated a café in Albin, Wyoming. Later, Grover began working as a steamfitter and welder for the Steamfitter and Plumbers Union 464. The family moved several times while Grover traveled to several states for work. Eventually, the family settled in Beatrice. Grover retired in 1987 and they moved to Newark to be closer to family.

Grover was a member of the American Legion. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, playing keno and attending the dog races. He was also an avid football fan, he especially like to watch the Texas Longhorns and Nebraska Cornhuskers.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Fern of Kearney; two daughters, Terie Dingman and husband Don of Kearney and Lorea Meier and husband Joe of Elm Creek; a son, Dan Thomas and wife Karen of Platte Center, NE; five grandchildren, Crystal (Brian) Werts of St. Edward, Jacob Thomas of Pittsburg, PA, Zachary Thomas of Platte Center, NE, Austen Thomas of Lincoln and Trevor Thomas of Kearney; a great granddaughter, Ali Werts; a brother-in-law, Marvin Kays of Moran, TX; two sisters-in-law, Ruth Johnston and Eleanor Hatch both of Loveland, CO; and several nieces and nephews.

Grover was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, James and Ronald; and ten siblings, Travis, Prentis, Allene, Rene Mae, A.J., Inez, Guy, Gene, Doris and Lorea.

Grover's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staffs of Mt. Carmel, Good Samaritan St. Luke's, Good Samaritan St. John's, AseraCare Hospice and caregivers Eva and Rosa. Your care and compassion for Grover over the years will always be remembered.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of God  
4310 17th Ave  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall



“ *Grover C. Thomas*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Red, he was a great man and very patient teacher. I lost touch with him and hadn't heard from him for quite awhile. Sorry for your loss. Pat McEvoy*

**Pat McEvoy** - May 16, 2022 at 11:16 PM



“ *From Glenda Ann and Bob Crandall and JoAnn Tate purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Grover C. Thomas.*



**From Glenda Ann and Bob Crandall and JoAnn Tate** -  
November 03, 2017 at 12:24 PM



“ *Lorea and Family, So sorry to hear of your Father's passing, hugs and prayers.*  
*Deb Houseman (Behrens)*

**Deb Houseman** - November 02, 2017 at 09:03 PM

DB

“ Grover was one of my most favorite patients. He had some wonderful stories about his time in the US Navy and was proud to have served. He had some tears in his eyes when he told me some of the stories and was so proud that he could attend a few of his Reunions. He did get mad at me, one time, when he saw me driving my Leased Toyota! He was so kind and gentle. We shared the love of tomatoes and he would always come by the office with a bag full of huge tomatoes during the growing season. We always talked about going fishing together...but never got a chance to do that. He was a good Man.  
Dr. Steve Bennett.

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**Dr. Steve Bennett** - November 02, 2017 at 11:24 AM

TF

“ Tom Fox and Jennifer Thomas Fox purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Grover C. Thomas.



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**Tom Fox and Jennifer Thomas Fox** - November 01, 2017 at 12:16 PM

JF

“ Uncle Tom, the last of your generation of the Thomas's. You were always devoted to your family. Now you are reunited with all of them. Go in peace.  
Your niece,  
Jennifer Thomas-Fox

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**Jennifer Thomas Fox** - November 01, 2017 at 12:07 PM