



Howard Irwin Thomas Jr.

November 27, 1955 - February 17, 2025

Howard Irwin Thomas Jr., 69, of Albia, IA, passed away on February 17th, 2025, at home, surrounded by his family. He was born on November 27th, 1955, at the Ottumwa Hospital, the son of Howard Thomas Sr. and Lois Repp Thomas.

Howard grew up in Hiteman and attended Albia Community Schools, where he made lifelong friends and had many adventures. He was a car guy, going straight from toy cars to fixer-uppers before he was old enough to drive. If you needed anything car-related, Howard was the man to see. His love of cars led to some of the most interesting stories retold around the garage at every chance.

The one thing Howard enjoyed even more than his buddies and cars was his family. A perfect day would be fishing with the boys or driving with the kids and their friends to the back-to-school campout. Taking the granddaughter to school in the Scooby Doo Van, teaching another to drive a stick shift, or just giving rides on the tractor. Grandpa always had time for the kids.

Howard is survived by his wife Melissa, two daughters, Angie (Jim) Ford and Sarah Thomas (Josh), all of Albia, and one son, Andy (Breanna) Thomas, of Reno, NV. He also has three stepsons: Curtis Wilson of Albia, Matthew (Jessica) Wilson of Colorado Springs, CO., and Michael (Tabitha) Wilson of

Milton, FL. Nineteen grandchildren: Ashlie (Blake) Schroeder, Baylie Ford, Carlie Ford, Allie (Brian) Crandall, Abigail Thomas, Courtney Jacob, Trevor Scholtus, Breyer Scholtus, Drake Thomas, Damian Thomas, Dante Thomas, Jax Wilson, Bently Wilson, Ayden Wilson, Cora Choat, Kandon Choat, Carter Wilson, Parker Wilson, Isabella Dubois, and four great-grandchildren. Also survived by three sisters, Janie Hendricks, Tina Graham, and Kathy (Doug) Benson, and two brothers, Steven and Brian Thomas.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Lois, two sons, Gerald Frank and Derick Howard, and one great-granddaughter, Haylie Marie Wilson.

Howard's family would like to invite everyone to a luncheon held at the Albia Eagles from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 23, 2025.

A Celebration of Life will follow the luncheon from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at the Albia Eagles.

An open memorial has been established to the family to be determined at a later date.

Previous Events

Luncheon

FEB **23**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Albia Eagles Club
11 A Ave. East
Albia, IA 52531

Celebration of Life

FEB **23**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Albia Eagles Club
11 A Ave. East
Albia, IA 52531

Tribute Wall

VS

“ So sorry to hear about Howard!!! Keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers!!!

Valerie Selby Small - February 22, 2025 at 02:36 PM

RS

“ Ron and Kay Sterk planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..

Ron and Kay Sterk - February 21, 2025 at 11:52 AM

RS

“ Ron and Kay Sterk purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..



Ron and Kay Sterk - February 21, 2025 at 11:52 AM

JP

“ Our sincere condolences to you and your family Melissa! Talked to Howard many times in the past few years, always a Gentleman! May he Rest in Peace. I'm sorry I can't make it to the Celebration of Life, but I'll be thinking of you all!

JERRY POWER - February 20, 2025 at 09:00 AM

DP

“ Sorry for your loss.....I graduated with Howard at Albia.....NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.....THE MAN KNEW HE CARS.....I am guessing he forgot more about cars than I ever knew....lol.....HE WAS A GOOD MAN

David pope - February 20, 2025 at 06:42 AM

CF

“ Casady Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..



Casady Family - February 19, 2025 at 10:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..

February 19, 2025 at 05:46 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..



February 19, 2025 at 05:46 PM

JF

“ *Jen O'Brien-Frye and Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..*



Jen O'Brien-Frye and Family - February 19, 2025 at 04:23 PM

DM

“ *Dan and Anna Mauro planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..*

Dan and Anna Mauro - February 18, 2025 at 08:09 PM

DM

“ *Dan and Anna Mauro purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..*



Dan and Anna Mauro - February 18, 2025 at 08:09 PM

SA

“ My heart goes out to Melissa and the rest of the family. Howard was a giving person. The night my mother died 😞 he drove Eddie, my brother, and my husband to Des Moines so that I would not have to drive home alone. I swore at that time he was the kindest person he held a special place in my heart. He put up with me tagging along with Ed to Darwin's where we would spend time just drinking a cool one and shooting the sh!t. Oh Howard you mean the world to me and I'm sorry time went by so fast and I had not seen you for a while. I love you and have a cold one with Eddie Joe when you get through the pearly gates!!! Till we meet again.....lov



Susan M Ammons - February 18, 2025 at 06:28 PM

DC

“ My sympathy to the entire Thomas family.



Daniel Crall - February 18, 2025 at 04:31 PM

NF

“ My sincerest sympathies to the entire family.

Natalie D. Felkner - February 18, 2025 at 03:44 PM

LJ

“ Sorry to hear of Howard's passing. My sympathy to all your family

Linda Johnson - February 18, 2025 at 02:13 PM

FF

“ Frye boys and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..

Frye boys and family - February 18, 2025 at 02:13 PM

FF

“ Frye boys and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Howard Irwin Thomas Jr..



Frye boys and family - February 18, 2025 at 02:13 PM

LV

“ Very sorry to hear this. Howard was a good ole car buddy of mine. I used to work at Ideal Ready Mix, across the street from his house, and it was worth going to work every day just to see what old cars and trucks was sitting out in front of his house. He seemed to always have quite a variety. Will miss him at the car shows.

Laurel Varner - February 18, 2025 at 02:01 PM

PD

Howard was one of the most interesting kindest people I had the pleasure to know. A true artist not only with a pencil but in the vision he had in his projects. Thanks for all the help you gave me with my projects . Albia will never be the same without you.. Your buddies are waiting for you in heaven with out of this worlds rides..

Pat Dinneen - February 18, 2025 at 08:28 PM

RS

One of the original Hiteman boys. I remember many a bicycle ride as a kid from our farm on the Hiteman road to hang out and play or visit the family store. And Howard made quite a few trips to our farm, too. Rest in peace. Ron Sterk.

Ron Sterk - February 19, 2025 at 10:32 AM

JC

So sorry to hear this. Thinking of you and your family.

Joe Chidester - February 21, 2025 at 09:56 AM

RS

Already shared once, but wanted to let the family know that I'm in California on a business trip over the weekend. I wish I could be at the service. God Bless. Ron

Ron Sterk - February 21, 2025 at 11:56 AM