



## Thomas Jackson

March 11, 1954 - February 10, 2025

Thomas Jackson, age 70 years, a resident of rural Simpson, Illinois, passed away unexpectedly Monday evening, February 10, 2025, at 9:33 P.M. at his home.

Thomas was born March 11, 1954 in East St. Louis, Illinois. He was the eldest of two sons born to Thomas F. Jackson and Marian (May) Jackson.

Thomas was united in marriage to Gladys M. (Keller) Jackson and they shared over 45 years of marriage together.

In addition to his wife, Thomas is survived by his mother: Marian (May) Jackson-Bradford of Marion, Illinois; a stepson: Christopher (Wanna) Hessler of Honokaa, Hawaii; a stepdaughter: Jeanette Peters of South Charleston, Ohio; 2 grandchildren: Canzada and Ryan; a brother: Steve (Ann) Jackson of Belleville, Illinois; a dear cousin: Deborah (Bill) Engel of Sun City West, Arizona; his faithful German Shepard companion – Delilah; as well as a host of friends and beloved church family.

In addition to his father, Thomas was preceded in death by his step-father: J.W. Bradford.

Thomas attended Ranken Technical College in Perryville, Missouri.

Throughout his career, he worked as a diesel mechanic and served as a fleet manager for Pepsi MidAmerica in Marion, Illinois for 10 years.

Thomas had a passion for life and a wide range of hobbies that reflected his adventurous and hardworking spirit. He was an avid horseback rider who trained and raised horses. His love for nature extended to cultivating orchids in his greenhouse, and he was a proud former member of the Orchid Society in both St. Louis and Missouri. A dedicated beekeeper, he maintained over 50 hives and sold honey to local grocery stores. After moving to Southern Illinois, he embraced farming, learning to bale hay and care for the land. Thomas was a member of the Vienna Masonic Lodge #150 A.F. & A.M. and a former member of the Saline County Masonic Lodge #339 A.F. & A.M.

In his younger years, Thomas excelled in baseball, playing in high school and for the American Legion, where he set a record for the most home runs on his team. He also pursued motocross and held a professional racing license. His passion for the outdoors began early, as he started coon hunting at just three years old. He also enjoyed fishing. Additionally, he was a proud member of the Teamster Local Union #682 in St. Louis. No matter what Thomas set his mind to, he pursued it with dedication and excellence.

Thomas was a member and had recently been appointed as an elder at the Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon, February 17, 2025, at 1 P.M. at Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 4385 Gilead Church Road, Simpson, Illinois. The ceremony will begin with Masonic rites conducted by Vienna Masonic Lodge # 150 A.F. & A.M. The funeral service will follow. Pastor Doug Hughes will officiate.

Burial will be in the Gilead Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Monday, February 17, 2025, from 11 A.M. until the service time at 1 P.M.

Memorials may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Children, 4400 Clayton Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

# Cemetery Details

## Gilead Cemetery

4385 Gilead Church Road  
Simpson, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 17. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Gilead Church  
4385 Gilead Church Rd  
Simpson, IL 62985  
(618) 695-2653

## Service

FEB 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gilead Church  
4385 Gilead Church Rd  
Simpson, IL 62985  
(618) 695-2653

# Tribute Wall

RR

“ Gladys and family, we're so sorry to hear of Tom's sudden passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



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**Rosemary & Jim Rouse** - February 15, 2025 at 12:20 PM

DF

“ 4 files added to the album Tom at Gilead



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**Dan Field** - February 15, 2025 at 12:10 PM

JH

“ Jeanette, Ryan, Canzada, Chris Heasler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Jackson.

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**Jeanette, Ryan, Canzada, Chris Heasler** - February 14, 2025 at 10:45 PM

JH

“ Jeanette, Ryan, Canzada, Chris Heasler purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas Jackson.



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**Jeanette, Ryan, Canzada, Chris Heasler** - February 14, 2025 at 10:45 PM

TC

“ The Peters' and Clarks purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Thomas Jackson.



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**The Peters' and Clarks** - February 14, 2025 at 11:43 AM

JR

“ My condolences to Gladis and the Jackson family, Tom has been one of my good friends and loved all of the little joking jabs he would give me. Gladys I always ending my calls with love to you both I will truly miss him.

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**Joseph Roberto** - February 13, 2025 at 08:47 PM

MM

“ Margaret Mathis lit a candle in memory of Thomas Jackson



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**Margaret Mathis** - February 13, 2025 at 08:09 PM

JM

“ So sorry to hear this sad news. We are out of the area so will not be able to attend the funeral, but my thoughts and prayers will be with you.

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**Jeanne McKenzie** - February 13, 2025 at 10:49 AM

JM

“ So sorry to hear this. We will miss all of our talks at our 9-Day Banquets. Sending prayers for the family during this difficult time ❤️



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**JD and Tammy Mathis** - February 11, 2025 at 08:12 PM