



john L. Thomas

March 3, 1936 - November 2, 2009

John L. Thomas was called home on November 2, 2009. John was born to the late William and Ann Thomas in Llywnhendy, South Wales on March 3, 1936. Also preceding him in death was his brother, Glenville.

John had a fondness for classical music. As a young man back home in Wales, he played the organ for St. David's Cathedral. John played both semi-pro soccer and cricket. He also attended the University of Wales for engineering. John was married to Iona in Llanelli, South Wales.

In 1959, he and Iona moved to the United States and settled in the Rochester/Syracuse, New York area. They relocated to Florida as John helped open the General Dynamics Plant in Lake Mary (later to become Stromberg Carlson). Years later, with the partnership of his son, he started a small manufacturer's sales rep company representing companies nationally and abroad.

John enjoyed working in the garden, playing golf and the piano, watching the Miami Dolphins and taking his many canine companions for long walks. He was a friend to many stray animals and usually provided them a good meal and an eventual home.

John is survived by his wife of nearly 51 years, Iona and his son, Glen

(Nancy), three granddaughters; Julia, Charlotte and Rachel as well as many extended family members in South Wales. Donations may be made to The Bishop Moore-Guardian Angel Fund 3901 Edgewater Drive Orlando, FL 32804. A Memorial Service will be celebrated 9:30 AM, Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church 526 North Park Avenue Winter Park, Florida 32789. 407-647-3392. Arrangements handled by DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory 9001 N. Orlando Ave. Maitland, FL 32751, Phone 407-695-CARE (2273), www.degusipeFuneralHome.com

Cymru am byth

Tribute Wall



“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Your father was a wonderful teacher, because his legacy is YOU. Married 51 years to the same woman is amazing in this day and age. What a tribute to you Mom. He will be missed. God bless you all at this sad time.##imported-begin##Dad & Mom C##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



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“ With deepest sympathy for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time. John was a terrific guy.##imported-begin##Pat & Bill Dentel##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a beautiful tribute. Sounds like he was an amazing father and grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##The Haas Family##imported-end##*

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *In memory of John , a great strong minded brother-in-law, who also had a very soft heart ticking away.*

John experienced great sadness as young teenager when his beloved Dad died when John was around 14 yeqrs old. this was followed by the death of his precious brother Glenville who fell to his death from the edge of a cliff whilst out searching for birds' eggs. these two deaths were enormous blows for a teenager to come to terms with and to accept without being bitter and angry for the rest of his life.

Then at the age of 21 he met Iona and married at the age of 22 years. the couple then left Wales for the USA. However within a year of arriving there John received the news that his mother had died , and so by the age of 24 yeras John had lost all of his family. John and Iona walked on with a great hope in their hearts but again tragedy struck the couple with the loss of 3 babies until finally Glen was born and their lives were at last on course.

And so it is from this beginning that John became the man we all knew. John was ambitious, talented and an achiever. a proud family man, Glen was without doubt his precious son, and his grandchildren Julia, Charlotte and Rachel brought joy and contentment to his heart.

He had a most loyal and devoted wife in Iona for 51 years and when Glen married Nancy, the gift of a wonderful daughter-in-law and mother of his grandchildren.

His happiness was therefore complete. He had back from life what had been taken away from him so very early in life. He was surrounded by the love of his family.

And so, my dearest brother-in-law, it is sad to say goodbye. We as a family in Wales miss you so very much.

Deigryn hiraeth dreigla'n dawel.

A grieving tear silently falls.##imported-begin##Ruth##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Nos Da Uncle John x###imported-begin##Rebecca and Lucy###imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ john was a kind and gentle man who used to spend a lot of time in our house in llwynhendy as a boy.he was always willing to help anyone.i remember the day he was born and i could not wish for a better cousin.he will never be forgotten he will always stay in our hearts.with love from mair and ted. wales.###imported-begin##mair/ted###imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ i will always remember john with fond memories as he used to call in my grandmothers house in llwynhendy my mother and john were first cousins.he was a lovely person and was always kind to me when i was a boy.he will be deeply missed but never forgotten. love ken maria and family.cymru am byth.###imported-begin##ken maria and family###imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Simply put John was my friend, my buddy and I shall miss our conversations and his stories of Wales.###imported-begin##Tim - Caerfyrddin###imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ John and I were part of the Wales North American Business Chamber; unfortunately we never met in person, only via long distance conference calls. His warm character, drive and passion flowed during our discussions; he was a mentor to us all. John will certainly create a void in the Welsh community in North America, but our fond memories of John will continue forever.

Oedd John ac finnau yn rhan o Siambr Busnes Cymru Gogledd America; yn anffodus ddaru ni cyfarfod yn bersonol, dim ond drwy galwadau ffon. Yr oedd ei gymeriad cynnes, brwdfrydedd ac angerdd llifo yn ystod ein trafodaethau; roedd mentor i bob un ohonom. Bydd John yn sicr yn creu gwagder yn y gymuned Cymru Gogledd America, ond mae ein atgofion hoff o John yn parhau am byth.

Gareth##imported-begin##Gareth Gwyn Jones##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Glen, Iona;
I'm so sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed working with John. His stories and laugh and accent always perked up my day and made business trips to Fla something to look forward to. He'll be missed.

Cheers;

Pat##imported-begin##Pat Jones##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mae John, ein Cymro balchach, wedi ein gadael - pob bendith i ti, hen ffrind
dai##imported-begin##Dai Evans##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Heddwch ei lwch - Peace to his dust*

John was a great inspiration and ambassador for all things Welsh in America and has inspired myself and many others to continue that work. Diolch am eich amser/ Thanks for your time Mr Thomas.##imported-begin##Carwyn Edwards##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Fiona and Glen*

John is one of those gentlemen that truly leaves a gap with his passing.

We spoke just a month or so ago and while it had been a long time since we had been in touch, our conversation was as if we'd been apart only a day.

He was a businessmen's businessman, a true friend and the world is sadder place with him gone.

Good bye my good friend. I'll miss you##imported-begin##Galen Guseman##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *This is very sad news - my thoughts and prayers are with you. I spent a couple of years working with John, and even though he was 30 years my senior I had trouble keeping up with him! A great guy, sociable, honest and always extended exceptional hospitality. Nos da John##imported-begin##Chris Binnie##imported-end##*

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ John was a truly special person and it was a privilege to know him..so kind, caring, and helpful with tremendous knowledge that he so willingly shared. He was a superb ambassador for his mother country of Wales, and held a positive passion for whatever he did in life that inspired others.

For me he was a wonderful colleague and a magnificent friend.....the very best of the best!

Diolch yn fawr John. Will miss you big time buddy.##imported-begin##Brian##imported-end##

November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Remembering you today John with gratitude and joy for the life and times you spent with us. We still miss you though, but accept that you were called home to the family we have beyond the veil.

Cymraeg yw Iaith y Nef, ond wrthgwrs dim ond ni sy'n gwybod hyn
!!##imported-begin##Ruth##imported-end##

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