



Dennis Dee Thomas

March 16, 1954 - March 9, 2020

All services are subject to governmental restrictions of 10 people in a room at one time. If you will be attending either of these services, be aware of these restrictions and possible delays while at the funeral home.

memorials to the family for later designation

Dennis Dee Thomas was born on March 16, 1954, in North Platte, Neb. He passed away peacefully at the Nebraska Medical Center, surrounded by his loved ones and listening to his favorite Elvis tunes, on March 9, 2020.

Dennis spent his childhood in the small town of Orleans, Neb., where he played sports, served as a Boy Scout, read voraciously at the Cordelia Preston Library (one of the only air conditioned buildings in town) and generally got into just the right amount of trouble. He was raised by his mother, Violet, and his stepfather, Howard, who he credits for his work ethic, fastidiousness and love for the outdoors.

Dennis graduated from North Platte High School and attended Kearney State College where he met fellow student and love of his life, Ann. After graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in history, Dennis and Ann married and moved

to Lincoln where Dennis attended and graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law. He was a member of the Nebraska Bar Association for 40 years.

As Dennis started his legal career in the finance and insurance industries, he also started a family, welcoming sons Marcus Evan on October 25, 1980, and Collin Ellis on May 23, 1983. Dennis was a devoted dad and loved coaching his boys in various sports and enjoyed time with them outdoors--from playing catch in the backyard to hiking rigorous mountain trails in Colorado.

Dennis was also a loyal friend who nurtured decades-long friendships.

Following his retirement, Dennis enjoyed socializing with friends, neighbors and family. He was always ready with a laugh and a good story. In fact, Dennis will be remembered as a lifelong learner and storyteller. After pursuing an interest in genealogy, Dennis uncovered a fantastic family story, a true tale of murder and revenge in the old west. He couldn't resist putting it on paper and published *The Wrong Brother* just after he retired. That achievement perhaps sums up so much about Dennis--he was curious, smart and took his dreams and pursuits head on.

In addition to socializing and writing, Dennis enjoyed gardening, Husker football, riding his motorcycle and, most notably, all things Elvis Presley. He would often boast that he not only had the opportunity to visit Graceland, but also saw the King in one of his last concerts. Again, this is a man who knew his priorities and made them happen.

Dennis is preceded in death by his mother Violet, father Bruce, and stepfather Howard. He will be remembered as a loving and devoted husband to Ann (Scheetz); proud father to Marcus and Collin; supportive father-in-law to Stephanie (Collin) and Kate (Marcus); dependable big brother to Cecilia and Rose; committed brother-in-law to Janelle and Jack Beatty and Betty Scheetz; and overjoyed grandpa to Charles (Charlie), Joseph (Joey) and Vivian (Vivy).

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home-Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Celebration of Life

MAR 23. 10:30 AM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home-Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dennis Dee Thomas*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - March 20, 2020 at 10:31 AM

LC

Ann and family,

We will be eternally grateful that we met you and Dennis and the "Omaha crew" all those years ago in South Dakota. The "hot tub party" will always be one of the greatest stories of all and makes us all laugh until we cry. What an introduction to this wonderful group of friends! We so wish we could be with you in person today to help celebrate Dennis, but please know we are with you in spirit and will be with you via video. What a blessing we are able to at least be with you this way. Thank you for all the years of love and laughter. We look forward to visiting again soon. Sending extra special prayers to you and the whole family today. All our love, Doug and Laura.

Laura Clark - March 23, 2020 at 09:29 AM

AJ

Thankful for the opportunity to be with you all virtually today! Much love! Steve, Ame, Blake and Tyler Johnson

Ame Johnson - March 23, 2020 at 11:26 AM

SB

Thanks for sharing. We are grateful to have known Dennis as a wonderful neighbor and friend and will continue to be there for Ann and the family. Sondra and Stan Bluma

Stan and Sondra Bluma - March 23, 2020 at 12:03 PM

SG

Thank you for making this webcast possible. It meant so much to be able to "attend." God bless you family in the days ahead. May good memories comfort you. May God grant you peace, hope, and love.

*Blessings,
Sharon Garrity*

Sharon Garrity - March 23, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ Dennis Dee Thomas

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

CM

“ Ann, Marcus & Collin. I am so very sorry for your devastating loss. Dennis was a great man and made his immediate and extended family very proud. The last time I saw him was at my grandma's (Eleanor) funeral and it meant so much to my mom that you and Dennis were there! Love, hugs and the Lords strength! Carrie (Schneider), Craig, Easton and Emmy.

carrie (schneider) miller - March 23, 2020 at 12:15 PM

AT

Thanks Carrie. Dennis was very fond of your grandpa and grandma. He had some great stories of their times together. ❤️

Ann Thomas - March 23, 2020 at 10:17 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dennis Dee Thomas.



March 23, 2020 at 11:56 AM



“ Ann, Diane and I had so many good times with you and Dennis, it would be hard to label just one as our favorite. We will miss Dennis, no doubt, but look forward to making new memories with you and the rest of “the crew” in Omaha. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Rick & Diane C

Rick & Diane Campbell - March 21, 2020 at 08:46 PM



Thanks Rick and Diane. ❤️

Ann Thomas - March 22, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ Ann and family,
I always enjoyed talking with Dennis at work, mostly about music. He always loved talking about the grandkids too. He was always great to be around and had a positive attitude about life. I'll never forget when he finished his book and came out to work and handed out several copies. He was so proud of finishing that project. I'm very sorry for your loss. Dennis was a keeper.

Herb Brown

Herb Brown - March 17, 2020 at 03:43 PM

AT

Thanks Herb....❤️

Ann Thomas - March 17, 2020 at 09:40 PM

DE

“ Working with Dennis are some of my happiest memories from Pinnacle. I loved to stop by his office for a chat, we would put the world to right. He had a twinkle in his eyes and cheeky grin and a wicked sense of humor. He was so pleased when he found out he was half Welsh and spent months asking me for Welsh words and their meaning. I later found out it was for a tattoo lol. Dennis's had the heart of a Welshman he worked hard and adored his family. He was delighted with his grand babies and loved to show their pictures off. Christmas in the office wasn't complete until his Grinch came out. He looked forward to retirement he was proud of his heritage and wanted to take his wife to Wales I'm so sad he didn't get to go. He had lots of questions on traditions and I'd get messages out of the blue, do they really do that? I'll miss his curious questions and his friendship. Gorffwys yn dda fy ffrind nes i ni gwrdd eto



Della - March 14, 2020 at 01:13 AM

AT

Thanks Della. Dennis talked about you often. ❤️

Ann Thomas - March 17, 2020 at 09:39 PM

SK

“Dennis talked often about how he was so afraid he would not have time to enjoy his retirement. Although it was brief, he made the most of it and his book was a true example that he didn't waste any time. It was a story he really wanted to tell and find some closure. There aren't enough words to describe what it was like to work for him. Compassion and honesty are the two words that I think best describe him. We had many long talks and exchanged a lot stories. I miss that the most. He actually glowed when we talked about his family and grandkids. He had so much love to give.



It was such an honor to have known him.

I'm glad he retired when he did - he was too. He worked hard and deserved to enjoy all the things life offered him. I'm lighting a candle to keep his flame alive. God Bless and may Ann and the family be blessed with all the good things in life that are to come.

Sue Kocsis - March 13, 2020 at 02:51 PM

AT

Thanks Sue. That was really comforting. He appreciated your friendship. 💙

Ann Thomas - March 13, 2020 at 03:50 PM

NM

“ Dennis was my go to person to throw around ideas and get advice on work and sometimes personal advice. He always had an open door and was very considerate and thoughtful. I loved his sense of humor and stories of growing up and his family. He was so proud of his family and talked about them frequently. He admired and was full of love and commitment for Ann, he talked about how he was in awe of her bravery and love of family; that during her fight and defeat with cancer she wore the hot wig to all the baseball games for their boys and was feeling so sick and never complained. He was totally dedicated to her. He was always such a gentleman, it was so funny but he would never allow his eyes to look below a woman's face... I use to tease him and laugh at him he was so worried about propriety. Oh how he talked about his sons, daughter-in laws and grandchildren. He was so pleased his sons found such wonderful women to love and raise a family with. He would tell cute stories of them growing up and how he adored all of his sweet grandchildren. I always felt like I knew them and watched them grow up via Dennis. He was proud of the men his sons became and how fatherhood completed them. A Christmas does not go by without thinking of Dennis and his Grinch. He would consider decorating his office completed when he took out out his beloved stuffed Grinch and put him on his desk. One Christmas, staff took a picture of the Grinch and taped it to the back of his chair like it was Dennis. Another Christmas we sat it in his chair propped up on a box. He so loved it! It was an honor and privilege to work with Dennis so many years and call him my friend and a mentor. He has touched so many lives, what a blessing he has been to us. - Nancy Melichar

NANCY MELICHAR - March 11, 2020 at 09:05 PM

AT

Thanks Nancy. You were a great friend and colleague. 💙

Ann Thomas - March 12, 2020 at 08:04 PM

LE

*WE are so sorry to hear about Dennis in the North Platte paper. Ann, we can't even begin to say how sorry we are. You and your family are in our hearts and prayers
Dale and Linda Eatinger*

Linda Eatinger - March 16, 2020 at 12:15 PM

AT

Thanks Linda and Dale. It's been pretty tough on our boys. We appreciate your love and support. 💙

Ann Thomas - March 17, 2020 at 09:42 PM

TH

Ann-We just learned of Dennis passing. My heart breaks for you and the boys. You were great neighbors. The girls adored you both. Steve loved talking and drinking home made beers with Dennis. He was a Gem! He will be surely missed. May God comfort you and the kids. We love you!

tracey hall - March 20, 2020 at 05:24 PM

AT

Thanks Tracey. You were great neighbors. It's been a tough few weeks. We miss him terribly. Thanks for reaching out. Ann

Ann Thomas - March 20, 2020 at 10:03 PM

EM

Ann, although we never got to know you as well as we would have liked, my husband, Joe Ramirez, and I were very fortunate to have known Dennis quite well. Joe and Dennis grew up near each other in North Platte, and as Joe tells me, neither of them had a dime to their names, but they both had wonderful mothers who raised them with similar values. Ironically Dennis and Joe ended up in the same law school class, so their friendship continued into adulthood. After law school, when Joe and I lived in Norfolk, Dennis called us to tell us that his employer (Farm Credit Services) had an open legal position in Norfolk, and with Dennis' encouragement, I applied for that job and got it. It was through that position that I got to know Dennis as a legal colleague and friend. Dennis was always a joy to work with. He was simply a nice guy, and a person who, like Joe and me, enjoyed laughing. Through the years, Dennis, Joe and I continued our friendship, and occasionally we were able to work in a luncheon with Dennis and other former legal colleagues. We are so sad that we'll never again enjoy one of those lunches with Dennis . . . at least not here on earth (but maybe some day in heaven. I hope so.) God bless you and your family in this time of great sorrow. With deep sympathy, Eileen McBride & Joe Ramirez

Eileen McBride - March 21, 2020 at 02:52 PM

KC

Annie, even though my heart is heavy, i am grateful for the memories we made together, with Doc in our college years-when I met you both--and the many years since that we have remained friends.

Remember when the 3 of us drove to Lincoln to see Elvis? Memories that will be with me forever! Not many men will admit to being an Elvis fan-but Doc was the #1 Elvis fan and not shy to talk about it! I am so proud of him for writing and publishing the story of his family tree! It was a goal and a dream he was determined to accomplish.

The two of you were there for all the big moments of my life. I miss hearing his views of the latest news, I miss his laugh when recounting stories from college days and stories from his genealogy research. Most of all I miss feeling like I have a surrogate big brother.

I am keeping you and your family in my prayers and want you to know I am here for you.

Kim Crayne

Kim E. Crayne - March 23, 2020 at 10:01 AM

AT

Thanks Kim for your continual love, visits, and support. Your friendship means the world to our family.

Ann Thomas - March 25, 2020 at 01:36 PM