



James Pope Thomas

April 19, 1930 - January 17, 2026

James Pope Thomas, age 95, was born on April 19, 1930 and passed away on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at his home in Lexington. Pope was a member of the First United Methodist Church, serving in numerous roles within the church. He was a longtime Lay Leader, taught various Sunday School classes, and sang in the choir. He owned and operated Thomas Furniture for many years and was a factory representative for Franklin Chair Company. He graduated from Columbia Military Academy and then earned his degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he was a member of the SAE Fraternity. He was also a veteran of the United States Army. He is survived by a daughter, Laura Maupin,

; 2 sons, Jim (Brooks) Thomas and Rob (Lisa) Thomas; 8 grandchildren, Michael Bohan, Jonathan Thomas, Taylor (Katy) Thomas, Kate (Eric) Hudspeth, Amelia (Nick) Louwers, Leigh (Sam) Lewis, Wes Maupin, and Matt Maupin; 9 great-grandchildren, Ida Woodrow, Walker Woodrow, Linden Thomas, Nora Thomas, Owen Hudspeth, Summer Louwers, Isla Hudspeth, Charlotte Lewis and Mattie Lewis. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jan Thomas; his parents, James Claude and Betsy Beulah Pope Thomas, and a sister, Martha Hay. Funeral services will be on Saturday, January 24 at 11AM at the First United Methodist Church with burial to follow in the Lexington Cemetery. Visitation will be at Reed's Chapel on Friday from 5PM-8PM and at the First United Methodist Church on Saturday from 9AM until service. The family requests in lieu of flowers that memorials be made to the Pope and Jan

Thomas Alumni Tri-Star Scholarship Endowment at giving.utk.edu/pope.

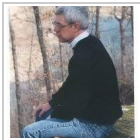
Tribute Wall

PF

“ *Peggy Fitzpatrick sent a virtual gift in memory of James Pope Thomas*



Peggy Fitzpatrick - January 19 at 01:32 PM



“ *Pope was gracious to everyone and loved and respected by everyone. He was a humble servant and a joyous spirit. His character should be an example for us all.. May the family find comfort in the knowledge of God's presence wherever people are hurting.*

John Middleton - January 19 at 12:21 PM

JA

“ *As a cousin to Jan Thomas I remember as an adolescent the couple I hope I someday would be like. You could feel the love. Pope always had a smile on his face and such a caring person. I just wish distance hadn't kept us apart for years. May Laura and her family find peace and blessings. Love, Jane Weaver*

JaneWeaver - January 19 at 12:17 PM

LE

“ *Linda Elam lit a candle in memory of James Pope Thomas*



Linda Elam - January 19 at 11:39 AM



“ <https://giving.utk.edu/popeandjan/>

Judy Record - January 19 at 09:21 AM

RS

“ *Rhonda Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of James Pope Thomas*



Rhonda Sanders - January 19 at 09:20 AM

BW

“ *Barbara Willis lit a candle in memory of James Pope Thomas*



Barbara Willis - January 19 at 12:46 AM

DN

“ *Loved and respected Pope. Fine man with a big heart. My condolences to you all.*
Rev. Dr. Douglas N Norfleet

Doug Norfleet - January 19 at 12:07 AM

KR

“ *Kathy Renfroe lit a candle in memory of James Pope Thomas*



Kathy Renfroe - January 18 at 11:04 PM



“ *Charlene Jowers lit a candle in memory of James Pope Thomas*



Charlene Jowers - January 18 at 09:47 PM

LG

“ *Thinking of the Thomas family at this sad time.I met Pope and Jan about 23 years ago. Such a sweet and loving couple. I know he is smiling up there been united with Jan. Pope would light up a room with his smile. So sad to hear of his passing. Lisa and Saoirse Griggs*

Lisa Griggs - January 18 at 08:57 PM

EA

“ *Eddie & Lori Akins lit a candle in memory of James Pope Thomas*



Eddie & Lori Akins - January 18 at 08:06 PM

PB

Pope Thomas and lovely Jan Thomas were wonderful friends for over fifty years since we moved to Lexington just across White Street. I have been missing them for along time. Condolences to their family.

Pat Brooks - January 18 at 09:57 PM