



# Mr. James Russell Thornton

SEP 4, 1940 - DEC 5, 2013



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## Mr. James Russell Thornton

SEP 4, 1940 - DEC 5, 2013

**M**r. James Russell Thornton, age 73, passed away Thursday morning, December 5, 2013, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born September 4, 1940 in Harrisville, MI to W.W. "Bill" and Evelyn (Gilpin) Thornton. Mr. Thornton was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and graduated from GVSU. He was Manager of Rate Design for Entergy, Inc. for 18 years before retiring in 2003, and had also worked for Consumers Power Company for 13 years. His career took him to Jackson, MI, Beaumont, TX, and Little Rock, AK. Mr. Thornton was a member of the American Legion Post #9, the NRA, was an avid outdoorsman, loved to hunt, fish, and create wood carvings. On September 21, 1962 he married the former Janice R. Davis in Muskegon and she survives him along with 3 daughters, Shelly Thornton of Grants, New Mexico; Kristina (Mike) Bell of Jackson, MI; Ginger (Wayne) Brunt of Houston, TX; 4 grandchildren, Megan and Lauren Bell, Autumn and Andrew Parker; brother, Larry (Sandy) Thornton of Marquette, MI; sister-in-law, Kay (Jim) DeVries of Muskegon; brother-in-law, Charles Davis of Grand Haven; many special nieces and nephews, and many great friends from in and out of state; and his beloved and faithful companion "Rusty". A MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held 1:00 PM Monday, December 23, 2013 at The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St., (231) 798-1100, with Rev. John H. Brown officiating. VISITATION with the family will be one hour prior to the service. MEMORIALS to Harbor Hospice will be appreciated. Share memories with the family at their On-line Guest Book at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com)



# Events


**Mr. James Russell Thornton**

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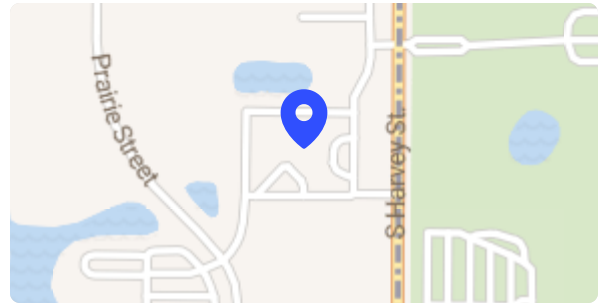
## Visitation

 **Monday**, December 23, 2013

 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET

 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



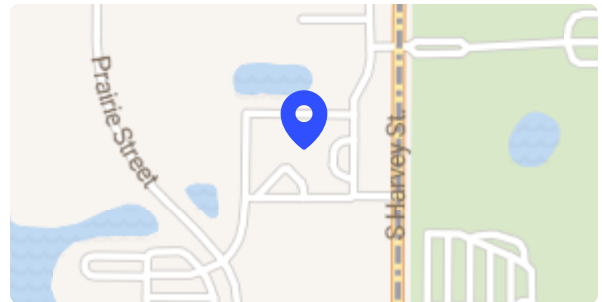
## Memorial Service

 **Monday**, December 23, 2013

 1:00 PM ET

 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444





## Tribute Wall

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**Lynne Spencer** posted:

I remember double dating with Jan and Russ in high school It was great to become reacquainted in the years since retirement. Jan, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.Lynne and Tom Spencer

December 23 at 5:17 AM



**Norm Baumgarten** posted:

Russ was my friend. I think we met at Moon School while watching the girls on the jungle-gym. We were "Moonies". Russ was a good shooter. Marble shooter I mean. I think he was the one who got my prized "cats-eye". Russ was a true friend. I knew he was a true friend because he forgave me but never forgot the time he suffered a bashed head and loose lip when my car hit that telephone pole while we were skipping school. Russ was a fast runner. I know he was fast because he beat me to his house when those Catholic High School guys attacked us. Russ was a great singer. I think this because, although I couldn't hear him to well, we both sang in the choir at Lakeside Baptist Church. Russ was a great seaman. He was in the Sea Scouts and demonstrated his nautical expertise as captain of the rowboat we borrowed from the cottage next to church camp. Even in later life Russ was a great captain.He told me so as we bounced across the waves in his zillion horsepower boat off Drummond Island.To sum it up, Russ was great, he was my friend, and I'll miss him very much.

December 16 at 7:25 AM



**Charlie & Sally Arundquist** posted:

Russ and I could share many memories, good and bad. He was a great friend and boy could he eat the perch. Sally and I will miss the big guy...we go back 60 years. Jan, our prayers are with you ...we are in Arizona now, but when we get back to Muskegon I think we should plan a "Moonie Meeting"

December 16 at 6:57 AM



**Lorri, Sophia And Olivia Hinton** lit a candle in honor of James.

To the Thornton/Bell Family,

December 16 at 4:35 AM





## Tribute Wall

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GS

**Ginna And Mike Sabol** lit a candle in honor of James.



December 16 at 2:33 AM

GS

**Ginna And Mike Sabol** posted:

I joined my husband in Germany, after we were married and then a week later Jan joined Jim!! Being newly married we hit it off immediately and became fast friends, doing everything together! Some good, some silly and some stupid things!! We went everywhere together! So much fun, so many memories!! That was back in 1963 and 64 and we have stayed in touch and friends ever since and I have ALWAYS felt my life was richer by knowing them!! You will be sorely missed my friend, but I do treasure the times we had you and regret nothing!! You left a wonderful legacy in your wife, children and grand children! They will miss you, we all will miss you!! Till we meet again, know you are missed and loved by all!! Save a seat for us in Heaven! God Bless you and may you RIP!!

December 16 at 2:31 AM

AL

**Alex** shared an album called **New Album Name**.



December 15 at 7:13 PM

AP

**Alex & Roxanne Picard** posted:

Russ was my life long friend we grew from grade school, too high school, college and the military, then our careers and later in life our retirement. He and Jan were also 50 year friends of my wife RoxAnne. He was a "MOONIE". We had many good times! He made a mark and he will be missed.

December 15 at 6:57 PM

NM

**Nell Mackey** lit a candle in honor of James.

I remember way back in highschool, Russ and his group of guys gad a slogan that went:"if you need help and we are here, we will help you, never fear".Russ was a fun guy, who had the good fortune to marry my dear friend, Jan.My thoughts and prayers go out to Jan, Shelly, Ginger, Kristi, the grandkids.Love, Nell Mackey



December 15 at 1:48 PM



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LM

**Lisa Martin** posted:

Even though I only met you a couple of times, I feel like I know so well. After working with your daughter, Ginger, and becoming friends, we would often share stories about our dads. There are so many similarities between you and my dad. Strict disciplinarian and tough dad but could be an old softy too. My dad lost his battle to cancer 9 years ago but hisife, lessons and legacy live on through me and my family. Just as yours will live on through your daughters and grandkids and family. I know you will be missed by many but never forgotten. I pray that your family will take comfort in knowing you are walking with our Heavenly Father and watching over them until we can all be together again. Enjoy your forever home in paradise and save us a spot!

December 15 at 8:42 AM

EN

**Eric Neading** posted:

Our Love an Prayer's our with you all , Bonnie & Eric Neading

December 15 at 8:36 AM

AT

**Alicia Thornton** posted:

I remember when I was 12, Uncle Russ bet me that the central time zone cut through Upper Michigan. I was adamant that it ran along the Wisconsin border. So he asked for a lock of my hair as an ante. Good thing he didn't ask me to pay up when I found out I was wrong.

December 15 at 7:46 AM

JP

**Joann Privasky** posted:

JANICE: Thoughts and prayers are with you and family.Sincerely, Jo Privasky

December 15 at 4:23 AM



Alex shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

December 15 at 7:13 PM



The MOONIES at Runts for perch dinner summer 2013



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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