



## Harry Martin Thorbjornsen

July 14, 2020

Harry Martin Thorbjornsen passed away on July 14, 2020 in Martinsville, VA. He was born in Norfolk, VA to Freda Ridenour Thorbjornsen and Melvin Thorbjornsen. He was raised in the Edgewater section of Norfolk next to a truck farm where he worked as a young boy. He started to school in 1930 at Larchmont Elementary and then attended Blair Junior and Maury High. He started his Civil Service career in 1944 at Norfolk Naval Base before being inducted in the U S Army where he served as a rifleman in the 84th Infantry Division in Germany. He received the Purple Heart and later served during the Occupation. He returned to Norfolk in 1946 and worked in Civil Service until retirement in 1977. He loved singing and was a member of several church choirs and the Jolliff Jubilaires of Chesapeake, VA. He also loved gardening and spending time with family and friends.

Harry is survived by his wife of 64 years Margaret James Thorbjornsen, his daughter, son-in-law and grandson, Joy, Keith and Jordan Nance, all of Reidsville, NC and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, his brothers Melvin and Theodore Thorbjornsen, his sisters Margarete Thorbjornsen, Georgianna Cullipher and Virginia Gaylord, his daughter Mary Thorbjornsen Jennings. He was a member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Martinsville.

Burial will be at 11:00 am Saturday July 18, 2020 in Forest Lawn Cemetery,

Norfolk, VA with militay honors.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

8100 Granby Street  
Norfolk, VA 23505  
(757) 441-1752

# Previous Events

## Committal Service

JUL 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Forest Lawn Cemetery  
8100 Granby Street  
Norfolk, VA

# Tribute Wall

BW

“ Remembering you both at Aldersgate UMC in Chesapeake....sang in the choir with Harry..he had a great tenor voice and always a smile.....Blessings to the family...  
Betty Whitener (formerly Hayslett)

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**Betty Whitener** - July 18, 2020 at 06:31 PM

VB

“ Margaret, I am so sorry for the loss of your soulmate. I remember you from the late 60's when we worked together at Drs Hodges Faulkner and Hodge. Now that has been a long time ago but I will always remember your kindness to this young nurse at the time. Please know I am thinking of you and your family. Virginia Powell is the name you knew me as and now my name is Virginia Bogue. Stay well and stay safe

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**Virginia Bogue** - July 18, 2020 at 07:53 AM

HG

“ Mrs. Thorbjornsen and Joy,  
I don't think God put a kinder man on the Earth. I look back fondly on all the good times we had at church and at school. I especially have been thinking about Joy's wedding and how beautiful everything was and all the landscaping Mr. and Mrs. T did by themselves. It seems like just yesterday. Mom passed away last September. They have a lot of catching up to do in Heaven. My love and prayers are with you.  
Hope (Sawyer) Glass

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**Hope Glass** - July 17, 2020 at 11:54 PM

RP

“ Joy I’m sorry for your family’s loss of your father. He was kind and generous. I’m reminded of the time in fourth grade at E W Chittum elementary when I got two rabbits from him. One for me and one for my sister and he gave us advice about how to take care of them. I’m sure he touched so many people’s lives in positive and unforgettable ways.  
I wish peace for you and your family.

Rob Powers - July 17, 2020 at 01:23 PM

TL

“ Our deepest sympathy to the entire family. We remember the indoor picnic we had in the Norfolk condo and the stories about the ships that were being repaired or docked there. Our prayers are with you at this time. We are sure Harry is enjoying his heavenly home with our Father. May God Bless all of you at this time with peace and love. Mike, Terri, Matthew and Emily Laver

Terri Laver - July 17, 2020 at 01:10 PM

NW

“ Margaret and Joy. So sorry for your loss. I so often think of our times together. Praying for you all.

Nancy Whitman - July 17, 2020 at 12:35 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Harry Martin Thorbjornsen.



July 17, 2020 at 11:13 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry Martin Thorbjornsen.



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July 17, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ Mr. T” is beloved by Joy’s high school friends. I have a wonderful memory of Mr. T teaching us how to crab off of the dock at their home in Chesapeake. After our catch was steamed, he showed us how to pick the crab. It was something we hadn’t done before. It is a sweet memory of a simpler time, made all the better by the kindness of a sweet and gentle man. My love to you all, Cheryl Underwood

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**Cheryl Underwood** - July 17, 2020 at 08:26 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Harry Martin Thorbjornsen.



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July 17, 2020 at 08:19 AM



“ Joy, Keith, and Jordan...Bruce and I send you our love and deepest sympathy.

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**Gay Citty** - July 16, 2020 at 08:13 PM

SA

“ Dear Margaret & Joy,  
Clarence and I send our condolences as well  
as prayers to you on the passing of Harry.  
Always enjoyed his laugh and his beautiful  
garden. It's been a LONG time ago, but Linda  
has kept us up to date about all of you. I'll bet he and Milly/Sis are  
having a Ball together! Love,  
Susan & Clarence



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**Susan Baittinger Asbury** - July 16, 2020 at 08:01 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Harry Martin Thorbjornsen.



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July 16, 2020 at 06:12 PM