



# Thurman Louis Shurtleff

FEB 1, 1933 - JUL 25, 2017



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Funerals and Cremations

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 8



# Thurman Louis Shurtleff

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**O**n July 25, 2017, Thurman Louis Shurtleff committed his soul to the safe keeping of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thurman was born February 1, 1933 in Colorado City, Texas of a mother he never knew and Earnest Searcy Shurtleff, a blacksmith. He was raised in Buckner Orphans Home, a Texas Southern Baptist Orphanage in Dallas, Texas. In April of 1944 he was baptized as a Christian by his pastor, Brother Hal F. Buckner. Upon graduating from high school, he enrolled in Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, obtaining a BS degree in Secondary Education. His post-graduate Master's work was in Business Financial Management at George Washington University in Washington, D. C. Having been a member of the R.O.T.C., he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Medical Service Corp. He spent the next 22 years as a Health Care Administrator with the Army, retiring from the Office of The Secretary of the Army in November 1978 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Post his military career he remained employed as a Health Care Administrator in the Washington D.C. area for thirteen years, retiring the second time in May of 1991 to fight his battle with cancer. Winning that battle, he and Karen moved to Carlsbad, NM in August 1998. For the next seven and a half years he worked as a volunteer consultant with Landsun Home, a Methodist institution caring for independent living residents, assisted living residents and nursing home residents. He assisted in the development of a hospice environment during that period of time. In addition to his work with Landsun he also became involved in local civic activities and the political arena. In August of 2005 he and Karen decided to finally retire to The Villages, Florida, moving in December of 2005. For his next four years or so he volunteered as a consultant with TV Hospital Administrator's Citizen Advisory Committee. Until his death he continued his volunteer work with the local Parrot Heads Club primarily in the area of Charity Committee work.

Preceding Thurman in death were a brother, Truman George Shurtleff of Virginia Beach, VA in January 2000; an older sister, Thelma Howell of Friendswood, Texas in 2009; and a younger sister, Gina Allen of Big Spring, Texas in 2007. Thurman is survived by the love and helpmate of his life, his wife, Karen Elizabeth George of Homer City, PA. Also surviving him are three boys;



## Obituary

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Kelly O'Neil Shurtleff of Sadler, Texas; Russell Derek Shurtleff and family of Charlotte, NC; and Jon Lee Shurtleff and family of Sadler, Texas; as well as a step-daughter, Monna Despinis of Tampa, Florida. He leaves behind three granddaughters, Ashley Shurtleff, Brianna Shurtleff, and Carly Shurtleff of Winston Salem, NC and a step granddaughter, Logan Shurtleff of Sadler, Texas. Along with his brother-in-law, Rocky Wayne Allen of Big Spring, Texas, he also leaves behind two nephews, Kerry and Kirk Allen and families, also of Big Spring, Texas; and a niece, LaRoyce Coy of Friendswood, Texas. Colonel Shurtleff was a life time member of the D.A.V. and a member of M.O.A.A. At the time of his death he carried the "moniker" 100% Disabled Vietnam Veteran.

Officiating in funeral and internment services will be Jim Charleton, a Christian neighbor and friend. Internment with military services will take place at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

Donations may be made to the All One Family, Inc. Wildwood Scholarship Program, 1693 Anthem Road, The Villages, FL 32162. These scholarships provide new graduates of Wildwood High School a way to attend a tech school to receive certifications and degrees that will provide them with a career for a lifetime and they will be debt free upon graduation. All One Family, Inc. pays 100% of all costs. This project was so dear to Thurman's heart. Donations may also be made to The Villages Regional Hospital for their Scholarship Fund. The address is The Villages Regional Hospital Auxiliary Foundation Health Care Scholarship Fund, 1501 N. US Hwy 441, Suite 1829, The Villages, FL 32159. Condolences, memories and photos may be shared on the tribute wall.



# Tribute Wall

**Thurman Louis Shurtleff**

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**Stephen Larson** posted:

Thurman was the longest serving member of the Parrot Head Charity Committee. He was at every meeting and every fundraiser we held. He always had a smile and kind words to share with us. When we developed our annual giving plan, Thurman's insights and recommendations were welcomed. His focus was feeding hungry children and homeless veterans. He was a good person and a friend and we miss him. Steve Larson

August 26 at 2:08 AM



**Susie Dobrowolski** posted:

Thurman will never be forgotten. He was a true Texan as he had a heart and personality as big as the great outdoors. I will always remember him as soon as you walked in he was sitting there holding court almost, as everyone lined up to say Hi and get a hug. I think he walked faster than anyone I ever met, that walker had a hard time keeping up. He always looked at the people around him then down he would go and you would be there with your little kit to put him back together. Memories of our times together will always bring a smile and really happy we danced together last month. Hugs Susie & Joe Dobrowolski

August 2 at 5:21 AM



**Bob Alosi** posted:

I met Thurman in The Parrot Heads. He talked to me a lot about the Parrot heads as I was running for president. He took our mission "party with a purpose" very seriously. He had a great sense of humor and a great smile. He always extended his hand to me whenever we crossed paths. Very friendly and generous guy. Not only with money but with his time. I am so glad I saw him in the hospital a couple of days before he left us. He was in good spirits and we talked a lot. He extended his hand again in friendship as we departed. I think he knew this would be the last time. I believe he left this world on his terms as it should be. I think of him a lot and will miss him. I feel I am a better person knowing him if that makes sense. Karen was always by his side and I hope she continues to be active with The Parrot Heads. Bob Alosi

August 1 at 3:44 PM



**Joyce Isaacson** lit a candle in honor of Thurman.

Karen, so sorry for your loss. Thurman's party must have been his way of saying goodbye. He will be missed. Joyce & Bruce Isaacson

August 1 at 2:49 PM





# Tribute Wall

**Thurman Louis Shurtleff**

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**Judy Turner** lit a candle in honor of Thurman.

Thurman will always hold a special place in my heart. He was always thinking of others and especially anyone who was in need of something. Thurman had a heart for always trying to make things better; he was so intelligent and well spoken. His sense of humor was contagious....he always had something funny to say. In his last days he continued to have that sense of humor and I will forever remember how he threw his head back a little and closed eyes when he laughed. He won the hearts of all the nurses and staff at the hospital right up to the end. He was a fighter....never one to give up. He spent his life serving just as Jesus came to serve; not to be served, so did Thurman. Rest in Peace, Thurman; you deserve it my dear friend. Larry and I will forever remember you. Judy Turner



August 1 at 2:44 PM



**Martha T.** sent a Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket to the Shurtleff family.

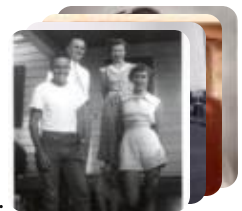


August 1 at 6:59 AM



**Laroyce Coy** shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Thurman was my uncle. I can still hear his voice when he would call and say Hi Roycee. That is still ringing in my ears. That was his special name for me. I hold so many memories of him while I was growing up and through the years. He was always a special person to me. He had such a beautiful mischievous smile. He will be greatly missed. Karen you were so good for Thurman. I know you took good care of him. You are in my prayers. Sending Love. Laroyce & Jon



July 30 at 11:56 AM



**John & Verdun Thomas** posted:

Karen, we hold you in our hearts and prayers.

July 31 at 3:53 PM



## Tribute Wall

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MH

**Marsha Herring** posted:

Many men are called gentlemen, Thurman was in every sense of the word a true gentleman. He gave freely of himself, his time, his talents, and his treasures. Thurman will live on in all the good he did for so many.

July 31 at 2:45 PM

SS

**Shirley Shanahan** posted:

Karen, You and Thurman were the best next door neighbors ever. My heart aches for you and your family. I know how much he adored you, just by that twinkle in his eye. We loved all of the vegetables he grew and shared with our family. He is a great man and will be preparing that bounty in heaven for our arrival. Hugs! Tim, Shirley, the Boys and my mom, Jean

July 31 at 12:59 PM

DL

**Darlynn Allen (Neice In Law)** posted:

I remember the joy and happiness you shared with Kirk and I on our wedding day. You welcomed me into the family like I was meant to be there. Also the trip to New Mexico with you, Karen, Maw and Pa and Kirk and I was a wonderful trip I will never forget. We love you and your life will live on thru us.

July 30 at 11:56 AM



Laroyce Coy shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

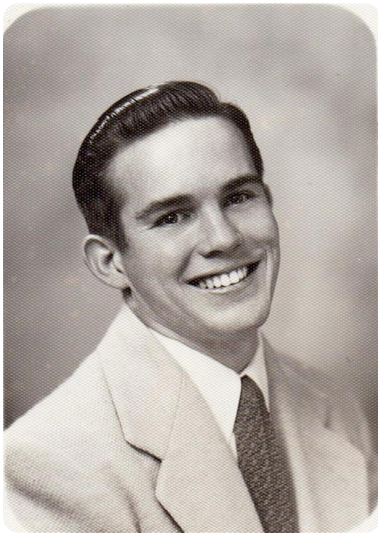
August 1 at 5:34 AM



Thurman, Laroyce, Gina



Thurman, his brother Truman, his Aunt Eva and cousin Jerry Sue



Thurman



Thurman, his sister Thelma and brother Truman



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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