



## John R. "little john" Thorne

September 30, 1943 - June 22, 2011

JOHN R. "little john" THORNE

1943 - 2011

John R. (little john) Thorne, 67, of Aurora, died peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, June 22, 2011. He was born September 30, 1943 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

He was an active member of St. Therese of Jesus Parish and a member of Aurora #736 Knights of Columbus Council and Phoenix Club. John was a visible Pro-Life witness for the unborn. He attended numerous Aurora City Council meetings concerning the Planned Parenthood Clinic speaking on behalf of those who could not speak for themselves. He worked in education for 34 years in Oswego, IL, beginning in 1966. Fifteen years were at Eastview Elementary followed by nineteen years at (Reeve) Thompson Junior High School. At Eastview he worked beginning as a Grade 6 teacher for seven years and then for eight years as an assistant principal. The next nineteen years, he taught Grade 6 at Thompson Junior High School.

John is survived by his wife of 43 years, Kathy (Neu), of Aurora, and three daughters: Shellie (Norb) Poss, Sue (Greg) DellaFranco, and Jenny (Dan) Herda. There are seven grandchildren: Alexandra, Emily, Hannah and Samantha Poss, Jacob and Joshua Herda, and Zachary DellaFranco. He is also survived by two sisters and a brother: Janet (LeRoy)Wright of Las Vegas, Mary Jo (Bob) Mitchell of Aurora, and Paul A. (Shiela) Thorne of Glen Allen, Virginia: mother-in-law Ruth Neu, brother-in-law Tom (Nita) Neu, sisters-in-law

Rose (Dave) Greenbusch, Marge (Bob) Turner, Mary (Don) Martin, several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents Bruce and Eleanor (Barr) Thorne, a sister Marilyn Collins, and his father-in-law Albert J. Neu.

The family extends a special thanks to the staff of Vitas Hospice, especially his nurse, Sue Schlegel; Carol Lynne Wilkins and Larry Rybak. Special thanks also to Rosa Price who was his caregiver for 17 months and the numerous family and friends who gave their time to help provide care.

John will be sorely missed by his family and friends. There wasn't a person he met whose name he did not learn. He was famous for sharing his yellow prayer cards with everyone, hoping to make a difference in their lives. He certainly made a difference in ours.

As was the custom throughout his life to ask for a charitable donation instead of a personal gift, it is requested that in place of flowers, please consider a donation to one of the following:

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Missionaries Sisters at their Chicago office – Missionaries of Charity, 115 N. Oakley Blvd., Chicago, IL 60612-2262; Marmion Abbey Guatemala San Jose Priory and Seminary, (Please send donations to Marmion Abbey, 850 Butterfield Rd. Aurora, IL 60502), St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Therese of Jesus Chapter, 271 N. Farnsworth Ave., Aurora, IL 60505, or Joe & Eric Scheidler Pro-Life Ministry: Pro-Life Action League, 6160 N. Cicero Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60646

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 9:30 AM from THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY to St. Therese Church 271 N. Farnsworth Avenue, Aurora at 10:00 AM; Fr. Robert Camacho will officiate with interment in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Monday, June 27, 2011 from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM with a Liturgical Wake Service at 7:00 PM at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 North Lake Street, Aurora. 630-631-5500. Please visit our new memorial website at [www.daleidenmortuary.com](http://www.daleidenmortuary.com) where you may leave condolences for John's family or sign his online guest book.



# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

Corner of Rt. 25 and Indian Trail Road.  
Aurora, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **27**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary  
220 N. Lake Street  
Aurora, IL 60506  
(630) 631-5500  
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com  
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

## Funeral Mass

JUN **28**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Therese Church  
271 North Farnsworth Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60505  
1-630-898-5422

# Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of John R. "little john" Thorne



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Daleiden Mortuary - June 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I was so sorry to hear of John passing on. He was a great guy, you were (are) a terrific family and a light to a lot of people. We all shared a great bond in the years of the St Therese Family, the Charasmatic Father Bob's, Marriage Encounter, and Holy Angels Prayer Group. So many life-giving moments and memories. I am so thankful for the honor of being part of that circle of love. I have moved around a lot, been a part of many groups but none ever stood out like the old St Therese Group. We were truely blessed. As I watched the video and watched the years fly by I saw one constant in John. The same thing that intrigued and drew people to him thru the years. His smile lit up a room and the glint in his eye always made you wonder what he was thinking or where this story was going. I believe that was the Holy Spirit shinning thru and I know that is how I will see him again when we all meet again. Kathy my heart goes out to you..... God Bless You during this time. Love, Deb Warneke

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Deb Warneke - July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ John was a great friend and neighbor that I will truly miss for the rest of my life. John's girls will remember all the hours John and I spent working on the "Stanger" so they could drive it.

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**Terry L. Vogt** - July 02, 2011 at 01:57 PM

SC

“ I was blessed to have known Mr. Thorne through Sue. He was a wonderful father even to the friends of his girls - I know because he always treated me like I was one of his daughters. No matter how much time passed between seeing him he was always the same caring, concerned, loving father asking how you have been, what you've been up to and happy to give sound advice and hugs. You have touched so many lives and you are loved so much. My heart and prayers go out to you Mrs. Thorne and Sue and your sisters.  
Stefanie Maynard-Collier

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**Stefanie M. Collier** - June 29, 2011 at 09:31 AM

SJ

“ John Thorne was my 6th grade teacher, and one of the most influential role models for me. He was one of the bunk leaders during our Laredo Taft trip too. I have vivid memories of his Red/Yellow sign which he used to control the classroom volume, and reading things like *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

*He was there at my "Welcome Home" party when I came home on leave from the service, and throughout the years always offered his wisdom: The kind that extended beyond the classroom.*

*John was warm, and altruistic. If I learned anything from him, it's to fight for what you believe in, and be good to one another. The world really needs more men of John's caliber, especially now.*

*John not only touched my life, but he helped form the person I am today. It was truly a privilege to know him.*

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**Scott Johnsen** - June 29, 2011 at 08:07 AM

A2

“ Our Deepest sympathy goes out to John's family and to his brother Paul and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, from Paul's friends at American Legion Post 244.

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**American Legion Post 244** - June 28, 2011 at 04:39 PM

AH

“ My sincere sympathy is with with John's family and friends. I never knew John but Mary Jo and Kathy were great and my prayers are with them.

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**amanda lee schomer heckle** - June 28, 2011 at 01:08 PM

LB

“ I grew up with my best friend Mary Jo, and Johnny. So sorry to lose someone so young and good. My prayers are with all of your families.

*Jeanne Sharrer Bockus*

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**Laura Jean Sharrer Bockus** - June 28, 2011 at 09:00 AM

SA

“ Dear Sue and Family,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Thorne was a wonderful man and it was evident in the closeness, love and support that your whole family shared and continue to share. He was a ray of sunshine in everyone lives - always had a smile and twinkle in his eye. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Love Always, Sonia Angres

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**Sonia Angres** - June 27, 2011 at 10:53 PM

JT

“ Dear Kathy and family,  
My very deepest sympathy. John was such a great man and I and my children greatly appreciated what a great teacher and principal he was at East View. So very sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers. Janet Hoffman Tripp

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**Janet Hoffman Tripp** - June 27, 2011 at 09:34 AM

PT

“ Dear Kathy, Shellie, Sue, and Jenny,

*I will miss your husband, father, and my brother. Your home has always been a safe haven, and a fun place to be! I will always remember your hospitality and love. I so much enjoy my visits with you all! Should you need me for anything, know that I am here for you.*

*John was always an anchor to me when I was struggling with my faith. His encouragement and example helped me more than he knew and caused me over time to find my own relationship with The Lord. I am grateful to have had such a great brother and friend. Through my military service experience and throughout my lifetime, John always had a word of wisdom or a 'groaner' to make life a little easier. Our conversations always meant so much to me.*

*My brother John: "Off the nose to you...", I will miss you more than I can express!*

*My Love To All,  
Paul*

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**Paul Thorne** - June 25, 2011 at 02:37 PM

MP

“ Dear Dad - your innocence, generosity and charity have taught me life long lessons. Lost without you....I love you, Norb.

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**Michelle Poss** - June 24, 2011 at 09:44 PM

CR

“ *Kathy and family:*

*So sorry to hear of John's passing. He has gone to sleep in peace with Jesus. It is hard when we lose a loved one, but remember to keep ever before you the hope of the resurrection day when as the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 4: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I'm waiting for that day and I know you are too to once again see John. You are in our prayers. -  
Connie Rizo and family*

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**Connie Rizo** - June 24, 2011 at 12:25 PM

MM

“ *Dear Kathy and Family, I'm sorry to hear about the passing of John, Susan and I will always remember his warmth and charm, also his graceful ways with humanity. Few come along like him in our lives. Hold onto to him through the memories you created with him, you will always feel him near! God bless his soul and all of the faithful he now joins. Mike Mitchell*

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**Mike Mitchell** - June 23, 2011 at 11:05 AM