

## Mark Joel Thornton

April 30, 1957 - January 14, 2023

Mark Joel Thornton, went to his heavenly home on January 14, 2023. The son of Patricia Harvil

Thornton and the late Joel Cobb Thornton, Mark was raised in Greer and attended Clemson

University, where he played center on the Clemson football team.

With a strong work ethic and a keen eye for detail, Mark was the founder and owner of T2

Design and Construction. Mark was a proud South Carolinian and an active member of the

Greer community, serving on the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors,

Greer Development Corporation Board of Directors, and the Greer Trust Board of Directors,

which planned and built the Greer City Hall Complex. He was also a member of Partnership for

Tomorrow and formerly in the Lions Club.

Mark will be remembered as a loyal friend, devoted husband and father, and a generous,

Christian man. His character and integrity were unmatched, and the way he honored his wife,

his kids, his family, and his friends will ring forever. He was a great man of God and planted

seeds of kindness and goodness wherever he went. His contagious laughter filled any room.

He was a member of the Freedom Fellowship.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Vonda Smallen Thornton; two sons, Chris (Charity)

Collins of Loudon, Tennessee and Jason Collins (Michelle) of Greenville; three brothers, Jeff

Thornton (Kathy) of San Anselmo, California; Stan Thornton (Tracy) of Greer and Stuart

Thornton of Greer; a sister, Christy Helmrich of Greenville; sister-in-law Marsha Varble (Wynn)

of Hampshire, Tennessee; three grandchildren, Blake Collins, Lauren Collins, and Crey Collins;

and many beloved nephews and nieces.

Mark was predeceased by one grandson, Christopher Shaun Collins.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at Fairview Baptist

Church, conducted by Joseph Gaston and Carl Martin.

Visitation will be held at Fairview Baptist Church Wednesday, January 18, 2023, after the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Greer Community Ministries, 738 S. Line Street,

Greer, SC 29651 or Greer Soup Kitchen, 521 E Poinsett Street, Greer, SC 29651.

Online condolences may be made at [www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fairview Baptist Church  
1300 Locust Hill Road  
Greer, SC 29651

# Tribute Wall



“ *The Wood Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mark Joel Thornton*



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**The Wood Mortuary** - January 17, 2023 at 10:35 PM

BH

“ *It has been nearly two years since our friend has gone to be with Jesus. I miss him every day. I think about him every day. My life was filled with joy because I had Mark and his brother Stan and his dad Joel as friends. I pray for Vonda, Mrs Pat, and their families all the time. Please accept my thoughts.*

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**Bill Haynes** - November 28, 2024 at 06:53 PM

LR

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Mark's passing. please know Vonda that our prayers are with you and your family.*  
*Ricky & Lisa Roberts*



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**Lisa Roberts** - January 19, 2023 at 02:03 AM

CW

“ Stan... I am so sorry for the loss of your brother! He was a good man!! I will be praying for comfort and peace for you and your family!!

Cindy Hiott Waldrop - January 18, 2023 at 07:14 PM

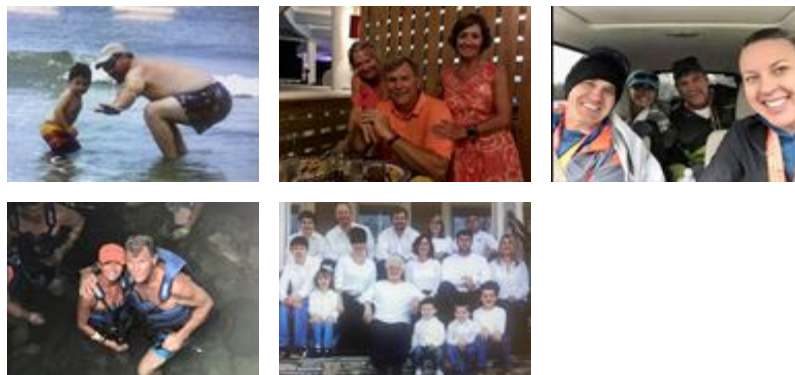
JC

“ So sorry for the loss of my friend, Mark. Thanks for your friendship and wonderful lunches. No matter what we discussed over a bowl of soup and a chicken sandwich , Mark always left with a smile and made sure I was smiling as well. Thanks Mark , Gonna miss you my FRIEND!!

Jay Crim - January 18, 2023 at 11:34 AM



“ 118 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Wood Mortuary - January 17, 2023 at 08:54 PM

KB

“ Stan and family, so very sorry for your loss. May you feel God's Loving Arms wrapped around you during the difficult days to follow. Many thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time.  
Kim Howell Box

Kim Howell Box - January 17, 2023 at 07:23 PM

KB

“ *Kim Howell lit a candle in memory of Mark Thornton*



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**Kim Howell Box** - January 17, 2023 at 07:20 PM

BN

“My thoughts and prayers are with Vonda, Chris & Jason; the grandchildren; his mother, brothers and sister, and the extended Thornton family. May the Lord shower his grace upon you!

*"Be on the alert then, because you do not know the day nor the hour." And if anyone was alert, who lived his faith daily, it was my friend Mark. He was always willing to extend a helping hand to anyone; always bringing joy to each and every task. While his stature made him stand out, it was more his character and attitude which caused us to remember him.*

*Mark and I started our separate businesses on the same day in 1995: I, the architect; he, the contractor. I set up a meeting just to introduce myself to him, and it turned out to be the beginning of a great and wonderful friendship. It evolved into a bond where we spoke to each other daily (often multiple times) and would share lunch 1, 2 or even 3 times a week. If he worked late, he may even call me and we'd go to dinner, and he would then return to his office. Many the night he would call me as he left his office to head home (as he had that 15-20 minute drive) and those conversations devolved into such humor! I often told him we should record them and make an album!*

*We not only shared our work but also our recreation, too. The Clemson Tigers gave us many a memory (he, the player; I, the fan) and one more common interest in which to bond!*

*I have known no better man and had no better friend than Mark. Words can not express the void his passing has made in my life, as well as so many others!*

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**Bradley Van Name** - January 17, 2023 at 12:31 PM

BF

“ *Billy & Debra Moore & family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mark Joel Thornton.*



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**Billy & Debra Moore & family** - January 17, 2023 at 12:27 PM

FC

“ *F&S Plumbing/Armstrong Concrete purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mark Joel Thornton.*



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**F&S Plumbing/Armstrong Concrete** - January 17, 2023 at 10:08 AM

DS

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Mark. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Jimmy and Debbie Singleton*

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**Debbie Singleton** - January 17, 2023 at 07:39 AM

RW

“ We are so sorry to hear this. Mark was so kind to our young children when he was building our home over 20 years ago. They are now grown but still remember how kind and gentle he was when they were on the jobsite. He was a man of high integrity and went out of his way to help others in both business and personal dealings. Our condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed but remembered for his positive impact on the lives of others. With our prayers for peace, Josie and Russ Williams

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**Russ Williams** - January 16, 2023 at 06:59 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Mark Joel Thornton.



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January 16, 2023 at 04:31 PM

AA

“ I just saw a post about Mark . Our families go back to the early 1960's when our Dads worked for DuPont . My prayers go out to the family and friends of Mark. 🙏🙏🙏

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**Ann Huddleston Allen** - January 16, 2023 at 02:39 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mark Joel Thornton.



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January 16, 2023 at 02:24 PM

JB

“ *Rest in peace, my brother, and thank you for your belief and hard work in making the Tigers the best.*  
*Jerry Butler*



Jerry Butler - January 16, 2023 at 01:00 PM

RA

“ *RAYNA ABBOTT lit a candle in memory of Mark Thornton*



RAYNA ABBOTT - January 16, 2023 at 12:01 PM

JL

“ *Mark was part of 'our gang' in high school. He was a dear friend during those years. His walk made me laugh. I think we had every class together our senior year. Since our last names were close and most teachers put us in alphabetical order, we sat near each other. Hearing grief about each others homework, teachers, sports or whoever the other was dating was not unusual. He was a good guy and a great man! I share in your loss but find comfort that he no longer suffers and that he is with the Lord. His last breath on earth was his first with Jesus.*

Jane van Laar - January 15, 2023 at 10:40 PM

PV

*All of you are in my prayers* 🧡🙏

Pat V - January 16, 2023 at 02:28 PM

RA

*My heart goes out to the family. I promise i will take good care of your ole red mercedes*

**Randy Adams** - January 16, 2023 at 08:39 PM

AA

“ *Angie AshmoreKruise lit a candle in memory of Mark Thornton*



**Angie AshmoreKruise** - January 15, 2023 at 07:47 PM

MT

“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear about Mark’s untimely passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to Vonda, Chris, Jason and their children, as well as the Thornton family. Peace be with you all.*



**Melinda Tse** - January 15, 2023 at 06:51 PM

MH

“ *We are so very sorry to hear about Mark’s passing. He was a mainstay at our house when he was in high school. My brother Harold and Mark could eat. Our mom loved cooking for that group of boys.*

*Joe and Melissa Hudson*

**Melissa Hudson** - January 15, 2023 at 05:32 PM

LF

“ *Leisa & Vicki Fowler lit a candle in memory of Mark Thornton*



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**Leisa Fowler & Vicki Fowler** - January 15, 2023 at 03:57 PM

SH

*Dear Vonda and family -so sorry prayers for you all during this difficult time.*

*Sheila Hopper*

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**Sheila Hopper** - January 15, 2023 at 11:45 PM

JC

*The news of Mark's sudden passing is both shocking and sad. Although I didn't see him often, each time I did he was kind and considerate and always took time to catch up and have great conversations. If there is one word that I think describes the way I felt about Mark it would be respect. I respected him because of his integrity, hard work, and commitment to his Lord, family, church, and business. If Mark said he was going to do something you could depend on him to do it. His word was his bond and he did things the right way. I will miss him. I send my deepest sympathy to Vonda and all Mark's immediate and extended family. It is comforting to know we will see him again in a better place.*

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**Jack Coggins** - January 16, 2023 at 09:34 AM