



Frank Thomas

June 18, 2025

Frank Thomas, 77, of McAllen, Texas, passed away peacefully on June 18, 2025. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dorothy Thomas, and his parents, Howard and June Thomas of McAllen. He is survived by his loving daughter and son-in-law, Tricia and Lance Cain, and his cherished grandchildren, Sean, Shannon, and Sydnee Cain. He is also survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Bonnie Thomas, and his sister, Mary Faye McCall of Houston, along with her children, Cheryl Anderson, Tom McCall, and Scott McCall and his wife, Jill. Frank leaves behind many extended family members and lifelong friends who will miss him dearly.

Born in Waterloo, Iowa, on February 16, 1948, Frank moved to McAllen with his parents as an infant. From a young age, he had a passion for racing. With his father's encouragement, he began building and driving go-karts, eventually competing across Texas and earning multiple titles. Among his proudest achievements was placing 3rd at the International Go-Kart Federation State Championship in Dallas at just 14 years old.

In high school, Frank developed a deep love for motorsports and began racing dirt bikes. He graduated from Schreiner Military School in 1968, where he played on the golf team for two years. He continued his education at Schreiner University before joining the family air conditioning business alongside his father.

In 1973, Frank met and married the love of his life, Dorothy Swett. Together, they raised two beautiful children and built a life full of family, friendships, and

adventure. Frank dedicated over 30 years to running the family business and spent nearly his entire life in McAllen.

Frank was known for his easygoing nature, infectious laugh, and deep love for those around him. He enjoyed motorcycle trips with friends, world travels with Dorothy, and spending quality time with his grandchildren. Some of his fondest memories were the vacations he and Dorothy shared with close friends—journeys that brought him immense joy and lasting memories.

Frank's life was one well-lived, full of love, laughter, and unforgettable experiences. He will be remembered always with warmth, admiration, and deep affection.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 27, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Kreidler Funeral Home in McAllen. A funeral service will follow from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Burial will take place at 1:00 PM at Valley Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Mission.

Cemetery Details

Valley Memorial Gardens

3605 N Taylor Rd
Mission, TX 78501

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
(956) 686-0234
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Funeral Service

JUN 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
(956) 686-0234
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Burial

JUN 27. 1:00 PM (CT)

Valley Memorial Gardens
3605 N Taylor Rd
Mission, TX 78501

Tribute Wall

PS

“ I had known about Frank Thomas for 50 years, but had never met him or talked to him until December 2024. When I saw on this website that his wife, Dorothy Thomas, who had been my childhood sweetheart had passed away on November 17, 2023 I found Frank's phone number and talked to him on the phone several times, then asked if I could fly down to McAllen to see him for a few days. After having been in love with Dorothy for the past 50 years, but not having seen her since then either, it was time and appropriate to get together with Frank after Dorothy's death and hear his stories about her, and for me to weep with Frank at the loss we both felt for her. Dorothy is the only woman I have ever loved my entire life.

Frank was very gracious, he picked me up in Harlingen, and we took each other to lunch or dinner every day as we were talking about Dorothy non-stop. He took me to her gravesite. I wanted to weep, but couldn't get the tears out. Frank was upset with me that I was not weeping at her gravesite. He assured me that he would not be offended if I wept for Dorothy at her gravesite, so I did -- and I asked him to bring me back again the next day to feel free to weep some more, which he did. Apparently I still haven't recovered from her death yet, as I am still weeping with tears streaming down my face ... and now it's not just for Dorothy anymore, but for my new friend Frank too who recently passed.

When Frank and I were looking at pictures of Dorothy, we found that I had a picture of her that he didn't have -- her high school picture they take in the 12th grade. Years ago Dorothy had apparently sent me the original of her high school senior picture. So I offered to make copies of it and send them to Frank to share with his family, which I think he did. But if not, let me know. If you are a child or grandchild of Dorothy and Frank, please call me so that I can tell you some stories about Dorothy, and now too about Frank from my trip to McAllen to see him.

LORD, now I miss Dorothy AND Frank. I've had enough being on

*this planet, please come pick me up, I'm ready to go -- almost, I
have a few things still to get done...*

Paul Strube - September 10, 2025 at 08:23 PM

PS

“ Frank and I finally met each other, 50 years after Dorothy first told me that Frank had proposed to her in 1972, just before I left to go to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Dorothy and I had been childhood sweethearts for several years. We first met when I was 14, she was 16. That first year when we were in high school we wrote letters to each other 3 or 4 times a week! The following summer she flew to California to come see me up in the mountains near Lake Arrowhead. That was a wonderful visit, and we kept writing each other non-stop. A year or two later Dorothy went on a motor home trip into Mexico with my family. When we arrived in Mexico I asked Dorothy to step out of the motorhome and let me talk to her about something.

What I said to her was this – “I love you sweetheart, and I want to marry you. But we are so young that's probably not going to happen. We will probably meet other people, and marry someone else. So I want you to promise me that if we marry someone other than each other, when we die and go to heaven that we will find each other, and spend some more time together.

I am so glad that Frank is now with Dorothy again, in heaven. Yes I believe there is a heaven and that we will see our family and friends again. I hope that Dorothy will remember what we promised each other, that when we get to heaven we will find each other, and spend a million years together! I am so glad that I got to fly down to south Texas this past December 2024 to meet Frank, and spent 3-4 days with him talking about Dorothy and becoming friends with him. I was heartbroken when I recently saw Frank's obituary. We had talked many times on the phone this past winter, each time for 2+ hours at a time. Frank is a good man, I am so glad I got to meet him in this life, and will get to see Dorothy and Frank again before too much longer. I am ready to go.

I made big copies of Dorothy's senior high school picture for Frank to pass around for each of their children/grandchildren to have a copy. Frank didn't have a big copy of this picture. But I don't have

any of your phone numbers. Please someone call me – Paul Strube (903) 539-9735. I am in Gatesville, TX (near Waco). I want all of you to have a copy of this picture of Dorothy, and would enjoy visiting with you a bit. Please call me. Thanks

Paul Strube - September 10, 2025 at 05:59 PM

MS

“*Frank was a very good man, husband, father and grandfather. He was extraordinarily full of grace and had a great sense of humor. I met Frank at his wedding to my sister in 1973 and I still remember his groomsmen throwing paint on his GTO. In later years, I enjoyed vacationing with Frank and Dorothy (Gettysburg National Military Park, PA, Antique Automobile Club of America Meet, PA, Woodward Dream Cruise, MI, Selfridge Air Show, MI and Mackinaw Island, MI). Frank and I had a mutual love of cars, which we enjoyed conversing about. Frank was particularly proud of his 1956 T-Bird. Frank will be missed!*



Mike Sweet - June 26, 2025 at 02:41 PM

DB

Frank and Dorothy took Marty and I to Padre Island and one other time we went to the house for dinner, where we also seen Mike and Carol. Frank and Dorothy are certainly missed. Love Debbie and Marty

Debbie Bruno - June 27, 2025 at 07:42 PM

VG

“ Frank you will be missed by many. Mike and I had so many wonderful times with you and Dorothy, over the last 50 plus years. We will always cherish those memories. I loved how Dorothy and I would shop while you and Mike would go to the woodworking show in Vegas. You are now joined with Dorothy your love of your life. 💕💕

Vickie Gilley - June 24, 2025 at 10:15 PM