



James Robert Thomas

December 14, 2025

James Robert Thomas, 92, of Lake Ridge, VA, passed away on December 14, 2025. He was a cherished father, grandfather and friend and his presence will be deeply missed.

Jim was born and raised in Virginia, and played basketball at the University of Virginia. He served in the Air Force as a fighter pilot. After leaving the Air Force, Jim spent his career flying Lear Jets for Jet America, Snell Construction and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. He married Ruth Gordon in 1961 and they had one child. Jim was an aviation enthusiast, loved to cook and was an accomplished chess player.

Jim is survived by his daughter Roberta Morse, granddaughter Nicole Acosta, grandson Stephen Morse and by 3 great grandsons. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Gordon Thomas and by his grandson Gregory Thomas Morse.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Triangle, VA. On January 6th at 11:00 a.m., followed by a graveside service at Quantico National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Jim's memory to the Make-A-Wish foundation of the Mid-Atlantic.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
18825 Fuller Heights Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Graveside Service

JAN 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Rd
Triangle, VA 22172

Tribute Wall

RB

“ It was my honor to have known and worked with Jim during his 20 plus years as the Chief Pilot For the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers. Jim served through three International Presidents, William Winpisinger, George Kourpias and myself. Jim applied the highest professional standards with long experience and integrity in piloting the IAM's Learjet 35 and then onto the Learjet 60. Jim was one of the most respected pilots in general aviation. He was a good friend and will be surely missed by many. I extend my profound condolences to the entire Thomas family and know your grief is shared.

R. Thomas Buffenbarger - December 30, 2025 at 09:31 PM