



## Jack Larry Thomas

September 14, 1927 - July 8, 2013

THOMAS, Jack, 85, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, July 8. A West Palm Beach native, Jack attended Palm Beach High where, at age 15, he met Kathryn Scotten, who became his beloved wife of 64 years ("and never a harsh word!"). After serving in the Merchant Marines during WWII, he attended University of Florida and remained a zealous Gator all his life. Jack earned his Mechanical Engineering degree and was a licensed PE and President of the Florida Engineering Society. His career with FPL culminated as statewide Director of Fossil Fuel Plants. Jack was a member of First Presbyterian Church in NPB, where he served as a deacon. He was a committed Christian with an extraordinary capacity to love and serve others. His service included Crossroad Bible study for prisoners, St. George's Soup Kitchen and Meals on Wheels. An accomplished athlete, Jack played handball well into his 80s. He loved the ocean, especially diving for lobster and spending time every year with family in the Florida Keys. Jack and Kathryn also loved spending summers in their home on Lake Glenville, NC, a favorite place for his children, eleven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren to gather. Jack is survived by his wife, Kathryn, their three daughters, Toy Keller (Steve) of Tallahassee, Betsy Clardy of Charlotte, NC and Susan Poncy (George) of Palm Beach Gardens and their families, his sister, Jane Thompson, and many nieces, nephews and wonderful life-long friends. Jack will forever be remembered as a man of integrity whose zest for life and love for others were his trademarks. A celebration of Jack's life will be held at 2:00

on Saturday, July 13, at First Presbyterian Church, 717 Prosperity Farms Road, North Palm Beach. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jack's memory may be made to Crossroad Bible Institute, PO Box 900, Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jack Larry Thomas*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Kay, Jack hired me into FPL back in 1973. I interviewed with all the Power Resources management with Jack being the last. After the first person, I was not sure I wanted to work for this organization. The second person I interviewed with was AD Schmidt. As a young engineer, he scared me. I went to my final interview with Jack Thomas. What a wonderful person! I wanted to work for him. Obviously, he changed my initial impression, as I worked for FPL for 37 years. As the years passed and I had more and more interaction with Jack, he changed my corporate life. I wanted to be like Jack. I carefully noticed his management style and how he interacted with people. He earned his nickname Gentleman Jack. I held him in such high regard that as I entered management, he became the standard to which I would strive. I never made it, but it was a worthy goal. I tried to emulate his style the best I could until I retired in 2010. Jack made my wife and I feel like family and I will always appreciate him. I will surely miss Jack.*

**Bill Reichel - Palm City, GA - Co-worker** - July 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Co-worker and very good friend, he will be missed.  
Regards to the family,  
Blessings, from John and Helen Padgett*

**John and Helen Padgett - Longwood, FL - Friends** - July 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *My deepest condolences to the Thomas family on your loss. My father, Andy Martinez, worked with Jack at FPL and my father thought the world of Jack, and talked about him so often.*

*When my Dad passed away this past January, Jack would call my Mom quite often to see how she was doing... And my Mom so appreciated that. In fact, she'd call me each time after Jack called to tell me about the call. I'm picturing Dad and Jack giving each other a big hug in heaven!*

*Suzette Martinez Wallace*

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**Suzette Martinez Wallace - Ocala, FL - A friend oh my father** - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*  
*Mike and Betsy Blair*

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**Mike and Betsy Blair - Charlotte, NC - Friends of Betsy Clardy** - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *So sorry to learn of Jack's passing. He will be greatly missed in our NC Community. Prayers and Thoughts are with Kay, the Girls and Family.*

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**Danie Beck - Glenville, NC - Friend** - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM