



Miles Landon Thomas

November 29, 1940 - August 22, 2025

Miles Landon Thomas, of Ringgold, Georgia, passed away Friday, August 22, 2025, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, after a brief illness. He was born November the 29th, 1940 in Gadsden, Alabama and grew up in Fort Payne.

Miles graduated from Fort Payne High School in 1958 and attended Jacksonville State University, graduating with a BS in Music Education. Further studies were accomplished at the University of Alabama and Georgia State University. While at Jacksonville State, he served as president of the Marching Southerners.

Miles began his professional life as a public-school band director in Georgia and Tennessee, where his bands won numerous awards and performed widely at public functions, including a performance at an Atlanta Falcons football game. While teaching at Sandy Springs, Georgia, he was named "Man of the Year" for that community.

After leaving public education, he was employed by HCA Parkridge Health System of Chattanooga, where he created and developed an Employees Assistance Program serving numerous companies in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama, including Coca-Cola.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon CST on Wednesday, August 27,

2025, at First Baptist Church of Fort Payne with Dr. Pat McFadden officiating and eulogy given by Doug Crowe. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. CST and on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. CST at Wilson Funeral Home of Fort Payne. Burial will follow in Glenwood Cemetery. The family requests in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to your favorite charity.

He is survived by his wife Elaine Steele Thomas; son Miles Landon Thomas, Jr; step-children David Williams, Jr. and Dana Chester (Matt); step-grandchildren Brandon Chester and Jake Chester; brother Dr. Barry Thomas and wife Mary Elizabeth, sister-in-law Sarah Ann Thomas; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Flora Thomas; his son Kipp Thomas; sister Dr. Pheroba Ann Thomas, a step-brother Robert Blaine Thomas and wife Louise, and brother John Casey Thomas.

Wilson Funeral Home and Crematory of Fort Payne is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Cemetery

1002 Grand Avenue SW
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 26. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Funeral Home
3801 Gault Ave. N
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Funeral Service

AUG 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Fort Payne
106 Grand Avenue NW
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Tribute Wall



“ Miles was a great musician and an inspiring teacher. He brought out the best in all of us. For several years in a row at Sandy Springs, the concert band played in the state festival at the highest level of competition and earned the highest possible scores. 50+ years later, we all remember Italian in Algiers, Elsa's Procession, Fingal's Cave, Irish Tune from County Derry . . . and of course from the marching band, Lover, Bessame Mucho, and "our traditional silent drill" ("To the rear, stomp, rear, stomp, step, left, stomp, step, right, stomp, step, rear, stomp, rear, stomp, stop [2, 3, 4] . . . Bye, bye, blues . . . " I could go on. Others may correct me. He was a great teacher.

Malcolm Pittman - August 29, 2025 at 05:37 PM

CP

As a first-year choral teacher at Sandy Springs High School, I had the privilege of working alongside Miles as he directed the high school band. He was an encouragement to me and was revered by his students and the faculty alike.
My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Carol Kirby Pollock - August 29, 2025 at 07:14 PM

DB

“ Mr Thomas taught me Trombone and Trumpet which I have enjoyed all my life. He will not be forgotten by those Sandy Springs High School students he had invested his time into. Thanks to the Thomas family with our sympathy

David Bosshardt - August 29, 2025 at 04:41 PM

HS

Like David and Malcolm above, I fondly remember Mr. Thomas, who taught me trumpet and French Horn. What he achieved with us as a young man is unforgettable. The hard work and discipline he required and the sheer joy we felt from performing challenging classical music are gifts I've never forgotten. Rest in peace, Mr. Thomas! I hope you realized the impact you had on so many of us.

Hobie Shatzen - November 09, 2025 at 03:08 PM

CL

“ Cheryl Little sent a virtual gift in memory of Miles Landon Thomas



Cheryl Little - August 29, 2025 at 10:28 AM

MC

“ Marietta Dental creations (Dana Chester) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Miles Landon Thomas.



Marietta Dental creations (Dana Chester) - August 26, 2025 at 09:19 AM

KM

“ Miles was a true friend. He was my “buddy buddy”. I’ll miss him calling me that and checking on me, which he often did. I’ll miss our meals at the Waffle House and hearing him go on and on about the Crimson Tide and how much he hated my Vols! He helped so many people in his life. He touched a lot of lives for the good. His was a life well lived. He was brave at the end. I drew a lot of life lessons from him through our 35 year friendship and send my most sincere condolences to his family, especially Elaine and Landon, who I got to know and respect for how well they cared for him as he fought this last battle. Roll Tide Roll Miles! I’ll miss you...
Your best bud, Keath

Keath McKinney - August 25, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Miles Landon Thomas.



August 25, 2025 at 11:14 AM

FF

“ From Your Home Depot Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Miles Landon Thomas.



From Your Home Depot Family - August 25, 2025 at 09:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Miles Landon Thomas.

August 25, 2025 at 07:49 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Miles Landon Thomas.



August 25, 2025 at 07:49 AM