



## Mr. Luther B. Thigpen

December 7, 1926 - August 11, 2016

Luther B. Thigpen, 89, died Thursday, August 11 at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community. Born December 7, 1926 in Macon, Georgia to the late Emmett B. and Mary Belle Livingston Thigpen, he married the love of his life, Rita Garvin Thigpen, in 1950. Rita predeceased him in October, 2015 but they are survived by their four children: Doug Thigpen (Fran) of Swannanoa, Gail T. Israel (Lonnie) of Candler, John Thigpen of Rock Hill, SC and Patricia Champion (David) of Hixson, TN. He is also survived by nine grandchildren (Andrew Thigpen, Alan Israel, Amber Israel-Berryman, Trevor Israel, Matthew Thigpen, Sean Thigpen, Emily Champion, Laura Champion and Phillip Champion) and three great-grandchildren. A great-grandchild, Ashton Bennett, predeceased him.

Following his graduation from high school, Luther entered the US Army in March 1945 and after his discharge attended Mercer University, graduating with a degree in journalism. He worked as sports editor for the Macon Telegraph, managing editor for the Augusta (GA) Herald and managing editor for the Atlanta Times before settling with his family in Asheville in 1965, where he served as Executive Editor of the Citizen-Times from 1969-1980. In 1980 he was named Publisher of the Clarksville, TN Leaf-Chronicle until his retirement in 1992. He and Rita moved back to Asheville in 1995 to be near grandchildren.

While in Asheville, Luther was Chair of the Housing Authority and was a member of the Rotary Club of Asheville (President 1974-75). In Clarksville he served as President of United Way of Clarksville & Montgomery County.

In later years Luther researched family history and applied his journalism skills to writing self-published genealogies which he shared generously with relatives.

The family will receive visitors at Morris Family Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue in Asheville, from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, August 15, and a funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 72 Culvern Street, Asheville at 11:00 a.m, Tuesday, August 16, 2016.

The family wishes to express its deep gratitude to everyone at Deerfield Community for their loving care of Luther. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Deerfield Employee Appreciation Fund or to a charity of one's choice.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Family will Receive Friends

AUG **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care  
304 Merrimon Ave.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
(828) 252-1821  
info@morrisfamilycare.com  
<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

### Funeral Mass

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Eugene's Catholic Church  
72 Culvern Street  
Asheville, NC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Morris Funeral & Cremation Care created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Luther B. Thigpen*



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**Morris Funeral Home** - August 12, 2016 at 05:42 PM



“ *Mr. Luther B. Thigpen*

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October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Hi my name is Kayla and I am a local bible teacher. I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one. There is a very comforting scripture at Isaiah 25:8. It says that soon Jehovah will swallow up death forever and that he will wipe away all of the tears. So we can all look forward to a time when death will be no more. I hope that this scripture can bring some true comfort during these difficult times.*

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**kayla** - August 23, 2016 at 06:29 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Morris Funeral Home** - August 19, 2016 at 10:08 AM

KI

“ *This is a better world because of the Thigpen family. It is wonderful to have toughed shoulder with Luther Thiigen and his family. This is a wonderful day that the Lord has made, let us be joyful for all of his survivors. Lovingly, Ken Israel*

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**Ken Israel** - August 16, 2016 at 07:28 AM

DL

“ *My sincere condolences to the Luther Thigpen family on the passing of your father.  
I first met Luther in the mid 1970's here in Asheville when I became a member of the Rotary Club of Asheville. Always a gentleman and source of measured advice and genuine friendship. I am honored to have known and been a friend of Luther over the past forty years.  
I pray for you all during this difficult time. May our Heavenly Father bring you peace and blessings.*

*Dan Lepore*

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**Dan LEPORE** - August 15, 2016 at 03:04 PM

MG

“ *It was my privilege to know and serve with Luther in Rotary. May his life of service, not only to Rotary, but to this entire community be a source of pride and happy memories as you remember his life.  
Margaret Gormley-Chapman, Rotary Club of Asheville.*

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**Margare Gormley-Chapman** - August 15, 2016 at 07:12 AM

MW

“ *To Gail, Lonnie and the Thigpen family: my heart goes out to you for your loss. Mary Weir*

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**Mary Weir** - August 14, 2016 at 06:07 PM

PW

“ Doug, Sending my deepest sympathy to you and all of your family in your father's home going. He left a wonderful legacy not only to your family, but to all who had contact with him.. He was a wonderful editor at the Asheville Citizen. Peggy Willett

Peggy Willett - August 14, 2016 at 03:10 PM

LI

“ Love to all, Diane and David Israel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Luther B. Thigpen.



Love to all, Diane and David Israel - August 14, 2016 at 10:37 AM



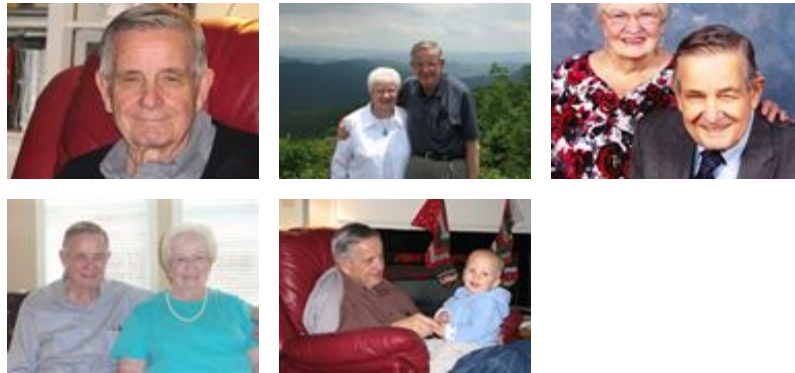
“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Luther B. Thigpen.



August 14, 2016 at 06:44 AM



“ 52 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Morris Funeral Home** - August 12, 2016 at 05:29 PM

LP

“ *Doug and Fran, I am so sorry and sad to hear about your father's passing. I hope you will find comfort from God and in the many memories you have.*  
*Thinking of you,*  
*Lynn K. Pegg*



**Lynn Pegg** - August 12, 2016 at 07:31 AM

GS

“ *Garvin Brothers and Sisters and Spouses purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. Luther B. Thigpen.*



**Garvin Brothers and Sisters and Spouses** - August 11, 2016 at 09:56 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Thigpen Family



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**Morris Funeral Home** - August 11, 2016 at 04:12 PM