



Joseph "Joe" Thornsberry

July 20, 1946 - May 12, 2024

Joseph "Joe" Martin Thornsberry, 77 of Frankfort, Kentucky passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, May 12, 2024.

Joe was born July 20, 1946, in Louisville, Kentucky to Michael Francis Thornsberry and Elsie Louise Hart Thornsberry.

Joe graduated from Southern High School Class of 1964 and attended University of Louisville Art School. He worked at multiple sign and display firms, Ford Motor Company LAP, and was co-owner of Thornsberry and Thornsberry Signs. Joe also worked as a Deputy with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for 8 years and attended the Sheriff's Academy at Western Kentucky University. He owned and operated Antique and Classic Restoration, from 1979 until he retired in 2023. Joe was a 50-year member of KYANA Automobile Club and he organized the Capital City Classic Auto Club in 1984 and was still an active member at the time of his death. He was president and founding member of the Frankfort Mustangs Club, member of the Derby City Truck Club, and member of Falls City Mustang Club.

He was a member of the FOP Capital City Lodge #8. Also, he was Vice President and a Director of the Choateville Ruritan Club, giving every ounce of strength and energy he had.

Joe met the love of his life, Beverly Russell, whom he married on October 5, 1968, at St. Athanasius Catholic Church, spending over 55 years together. Joe and Beverly built a foundation of faith, family, and love that will carry on for generations.

In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by his brother, Michael H Thornsberry, and brother-in-law, Larry Flowers.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Beverly, daughter, Julie Thornsberry Doane (Chuck); grandson, Zachary Joseph Doane; brothers-in-law, William "Bill" Russell (Kim); Kevin Russell (Shirley), sisters-in-law, Betty Thornsberry and Michele Russell Flowers and many nieces and nephews.

He was a faithful member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Good Shepherd Church on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. with Father John Lijana officiating. Burial will follow at Frankfort Cemetery. Visitation will be at Good Shepherd Church from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Friday.

Serving as the active pallbearers will be family and friends.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home.

Condolences may be shared via the online guestbook at www.harrodbrothers.com

Cemetery Details

Frankfort Cemetery

215 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-2403

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 17. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
72 Shepherd Way
Frankfort, KY 40601

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
72 Shepherd Way
Frankfort, KY 40601

Tribute Wall

CM

“ *What a Class Act. Joe restored autos for me and my father. Wow was he ever talented!! People would see the cars, swear we sent them back to the factory!!! From Iron gates, Model A's, Firetrucks. He could do it, quite well.*
Charles R Mullins

c mullins - September 16, 2025 at 10:01 PM

BG

“ *I am just seeing this in Sept 2024. Beverly, I remember when you and Joe met!. We had fun times way back then. Remember when my car went down your front yard all by itsrlf? 🤔😬❤️. I am so sorry you lost your sweet Joe. Life is just too short for some of us. I am so sorry. Barbara Geiger 918-933-3948. i live in Tulsa*

Barbara Geiger - September 22, 2024 at 12:05 PM

RH

“ *Beverly I am so sorry for your loss. Joe was the best to me always, hooked me as one of my hero's growing up from the first night when you showed us a Mercedes Gulwing he was working on. To the days when he worked for Sheriff, and would share stories, and listen to a young man's dreams/bs, to the last time I visited to see the Cobra he built around the time my Pa Paw passed. I could never tell him how much I cherished his friendship, kind words, and time I got to spend with him.*

Robbin Hamilton - May 16, 2024 at 09:51 PM

RP

“ So sorry for your loss, Joe and I grew up together here in Louisville, close friends, my brother Fred close friend with Mike. Joe and I ice skated and snow sledged many a times, rode with Joe in the Derby parade in 65 many, many good memories. Joe rest in peace, Until we me again



Russ Phillips - May 16, 2024 at 02:43 PM

RL

“ Joe was always there with a helping when you needed help. Percious car club (Classic & Mustang) memories. Reva

Reva M Lathrem - May 16, 2024 at 10:28 AM

CH

“ I'm so sorry for your loss, Beverly and Julie. I remember Joe and your family so fondly when I lived there with my mom and dad, Biddie Ann and Herbert Smith. I remember all of the respect they both had for you and Joe. I will keep both of you in my prayers and will think of my time at that house on Devils Hollow Road with your family and mine with such wonderful memories.

Clarice Howard - May 15, 2024 at 06:40 PM

JS

“ Jim Dale&Charlene Engebretson & spouses purchased the Garden Accent - A heart of gold st opped beating... for the family of Joseph "Joe" Thornsberry.



Jim Dale&Charlene Engebretson & spouses - May 15, 2024 at 12:52 PM

JS

“ Jim Dale&Charlene Engebretson & spouses planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Thornsberry.

Jim Dale&Charlene Engebretson & spouses - May 15, 2024 at 12:52 PM

FH

“ Dear Beverly & family: We are so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. You were both so good & so welcoming to us when we joined KYANA over 2 decades ago. Joe was a great guy & we will miss him. Our thoughts are with Beverly & the rest of the family. Frank & Therese' Hayden

frank & therese hayden - May 14, 2024 at 06:14 PM

BS

I may not have know Joe and you for only seven years, but you seem like family. I will miss Joe so much. He was always a gentleman and and so kind to me and so were you. Please don't be a stranger. Love you.

Bunnie Smith - May 14, 2024 at 07:37 PM

AH

Joe will always be remembered for his willingness to help others. He worked tirelessly at whatever he did. He was a great blessing to those around him and especially to the Choateville Ruritan Club. Rest in peace friend. We will miss you. God bless you Beverly, Julie and all your family. Keeping you in our prayers. Chester and Anne Hillard ❤️

Anne H - May 17, 2024 at 08:39 AM