



## Burma Fay Thomas

December 28, 1939 - June 8, 2020

Burma Fay Thomas: 12/28/39 – 6/8/20, Scottsboro, AL

Children: Shelia Ann Thomas – daughter; Gerry Lee Thomas Jr. – son, wife Kathy; Debra (Debbie) Lynn Barnett – daughter, husband Rick

Preceded in death by:

Husband – Gerry Lee Thomas, Sr. “Sonny”

Mother and Father: Louis and Jeannette Farmer

Sisters: Louise O’tinger, Irma Farmer and Lois Farmer

Brothers: J. L. Farmer, Rayford Farmer, Vondell Farmer, Kenneth Farmer, Marlon Farmer, Arlon Farmer

Burma retired as a computer operator at the Revere Copper & Brass Company and Norandal Aluminum Company in Scottsboro, AL.

Burma owned and operated the Sand Mountain Sorghum Company, founded by her father in 1950. She successfully expanded the company across the southeast United States. If you ever met her, she would say, “these are the best products, I’ll give you a sample”. There was no order too small, she loved her customers and would deliver no matter how far.

Burma Thomas was an accomplished professional bass fisherman with a true love of fishing. She fished bass tournaments across the United States from New York to New Mexico. Burma started fishing professionally in 1976 when there were only men’s tournaments. The first men’s professional bass tournament that Burma fished was in August 1976, finishing in 6th place.

Burma fished women's professional circuits from 1981 to 1997. During this time, she achieved many accomplishments: won 17 titles across the United States yielding her 17 fully rigged Ranger Bass Boats; was named Angler of the Year three times; won 2 Classic World Championships; she was highlighted in several magazines and newspapers; published in the 1983 Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook; she was the only female on the Evinrude Team, Fish Formula Team, and GNB Battery Team; and had published Pro-League Bass Fishing Cards. Burma loved sharing fishing with others - she was a presenter at Special Olympics, guest speaker at Boys & Girls Ranch, and taught fishing techniques at seminars and special events. Her peers gave her the nickname "Burning Burma" because she was an unstoppable force on the fishing trail.

Burma loved living on the Tennessee River where she enjoyed watching osprey, eagles, finches, humming birds, and most of all "her" wood ducks. Now she can fish again with her favorite partner "Sonny".

The family will have private services, with Rainsville Funeral Home, Inc. directing, [www.rainsvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.rainsvillefuneralhome.com)

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to [www.castinncatchin.org](http://www.castinncatchin.org).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Burma Fay Thomas*

August 29, 2022 at 05:15 AM



“ *Condolences to the family. I used to fish Bass n Gals with Burma and was fortunate to draw her as a partner a couple times. So sorry*

**barbara Bodnar** - June 13, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ *Burma was a wonderful neighbor. We loved to talk about everything river...including eagles, bass and wood ducks. She will be missed.*



**Cheryl Wilson** - June 10, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ *Our condolences to the family of Miss Burma. She was our neighbor and friend. She was always glad to donated her time and made donations to many Organizations for a good cause.*

*She will be missed.*

*Mitch and Joan Adams*

**Joan Adams** - June 10, 2020 at 05:35 PM

YM

*With a very heavy heart I send my condolences to B.T precious family, I loved and admired Burma Thomas we were friends for 40 years. She will be missed. Yvonne Moody*

**Yvonne Moody** - June 20, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Burma Fay Thomas.*



June 10, 2020 at 10:02 AM

BH

“ *Barbara Hancock lit a candle in memory of Burma Fay Thomas*



**Barbara Hancock** - June 10, 2020 at 09:56 AM

BH

*Sad to hear. Love and prayers*

**Barbara Hancock** - June 10, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ *So sorry for you loss. Even though I never met my cousin, my dad, Jerry Martin, told me about her fishing accomplishments. Praying for you all.*

*Kimberly Martin Johnson*

**Kim Johnson** - June 10, 2020 at 09:56 AM

DL

“ We want to send our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Burma Thomas.

*Dixie Labels  
Brent Brady  
David Hopper*

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**David Hopper / Dixie Labels** - June 10, 2020 at 08:51 AM

JC

“ With heavy hearts filled with grief, we mourn the loss of our Best Friend and neighbor, Miss Burma.

*We were blessed to have her for our neighbor and friend for so many years. May God bless each of you and guide you thru these troubled times.*

*Rest in Peace Miss Burma.*

*Johnny and Brenda Crabtree*

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**Johnny & Brenda Crabtree** - June 09, 2020 at 05:50 PM

CS

*I first met Burma in 1972. And of places, guntersville lake. She was fishing alone, in a small v-bottom that I believe had a 15 horsepower motor.*

*She came up the river and guided her to the middle of a milfoil spread. She went to the front of the boat, laid a 2x6 board across the bow and settle down to fish. It was like a movie script; first cast about a five pounder was yanked out of the grass.*

*This went on for the better part of hour. It was cast, set the hook, yank in another bass.*

*I was a sportswriter, down from Chattanooga, looking for a story, what I witness was story written all over it.*

*That one encounter turned into a friendship of 48 years. Her smile, her love of family, and her faith defined this lovely lady,*

*She's gonna missed.*

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**charled Searcy** - June 10, 2020 at 11:28 AM

ME

*I'm really going to miss Burma she was like a second mother to me...RIP sweet lady*

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**Melody ellis** - June 15, 2020 at 10:37 PM

KM

*I was fortunate to have met Burma in about 1981 on the Bass'nGal womens national pro tour. She and Sonny became friends and we often ate breakfast on tournament mornings at the local I-HOP near the event. I could write a book about her but all who knew her would most likely agree her name alone brought to mind that huge smile of hers that warmed our hearts. I really miss her and thank God our paths crossed and we became friends for some 40 years! I've been fishing off our dock trying to catch a big one for Burma but honestly, I think she already caught them all!*

*Love and miss you Burma.*

*Fly high angel.*

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**Kathy Magers** - June 22, 2020 at 03:14 AM

ES

“ So sorry for your loss. Burma was a great neighbor, when we lived across from her on the river. She was such a fantastic fisherman and loved the sport. Now, her son, Gerry is our neighbor. Our prayers go out to all her family.

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**Eddie and Dianne Smith** - June 09, 2020 at 04:16 PM

BH

*Burma will be greatly missed. Prayers for her family as they overcome this loss. I was blessed to spend many hours on the water with Burma. My daddy taught me how to fish, but Burma taught me how to compete. She was an amazing woman in many ways. God Bless.*

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**Bob Heinisch** - June 10, 2020 at 09:49 AM

GH

*Shelia and all of Burma's family! I'm so sorry for your loss. Burma was a good friend to me Loved her and Sonny! God bless each and everyone of you and you are in my prayers. Genie Howard*

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**Genie Howard** - June 17, 2020 at 05:23 PM