



## James Darryll Thornsberry

September 3, 1947 - September 13, 2024

James "Jim" Darryll Thornsberry, a hard-working family man whose family was everything to him, died peacefully September 13, 2024. James, 77, of Potterville, Michigan and Meridian, Mississippi, was born September 3, 1947 in Kentucky to Agie and Magdalene (Johnson) Thornsberry. James loved his work. During his career he developed several patents and also traveled to many places, including Europe, England, France, and China. One of his biggest accomplishments was having President Jimmy Carter declare a Jim Thornsberry Day for saving a woman's life. He also had many hobbies, including playing the autoharp with his siblings at family gatherings; camping and fishing; and he was a professionally certified Santa Claus through Frankenmuth. The family holds many special memories of camping at Two Hearted River, enjoying campfires, and listening to Bluegrass and Classic Country music with James. James was a former Mason, a Larkin Twp. Trustee, a Red Cross volunteer, and was a fan of J.R. Tolkien and other fantasy series.

James is survived by daughters Kimberly Kelsey and Karin Gibelyou, and son, Jonathan Thornsberry; grandchildren, Kevin Kelsey, Lacey Gibelyou, and Leah (Jacob) Bielefeld; great-grandchildren, Zoe Gibelyou, Addison Gibelyou, and Jadah Bielefeld, expected in January, 2025; and brother, Douglas Thornsberry. He was predeceased by his wife Janice, brothers Dean and Robert Thornsberry; sister Patricia Kubacki; and his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support James' family by sharing memories on his Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). The family is planning a memorial at a later date. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Tribute Wall

KK

“Daddy didn't belong to any particular religion, but he did belong to God. God saved him, through Christ, and saw him through so many difficult periods in his life. He prayed daily, read his bible daily; old-time Gospel remained one of his favorite genres. He would go to sleep listening to God's word. His faith is one of the traits people have most reminisced to me about in these past few days.

Kim Kelsey - September 21, 2024 at 02:16 PM

AC

“Atlas Roofing Corporation planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Darryll Thornsberry.

Atlas Roofing Corporation - September 19, 2024 at 05:29 PM



“Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Darryll Thornsberry.



September 19, 2024 at 05:29 PM

LW

“I worked with Jim at Atlas Roofing. He was a very smart and funny man. He played Santa Claus at the office several years. He will be missed. Prayers for his loved ones!

Laurie Williams - September 18, 2024 at 09:16 AM

KK

*Thank you, Laurie, for your memories and for your prayers. God Bless.*

Kim Kelsey - September 20, 2024 at 04:34 PM

KK

“ 3 files added to the album Jim Thornsberry



Kim Kelsey - September 14, 2024 at 06:13 PM

JM

*Uncle Jim came to my house dressed as Santa when Amanda was a week old. I will never forget that. ❤️*

jennifer medford - September 14, 2024 at 07:16 PM

KK

*He loved doing that. I'm so glad he could bring that joy to so many.*

Kim Kelsey - September 20, 2024 at 04:34 PM

KK

“ Kim Kelsey lit a candle in memory of James Darryll Thornsberry



Kim Kelsey - September 14, 2024 at 06:04 PM