



## Ernest Thilges

February 1, 1946 - May 15, 2025

Ernest Thilges, 79, of Iowa Falls, passed away Thursday, May 15, 2025 at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. A memorial visitation will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 AM on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory in Iowa Falls. Following visitation he will be laid to rest with full military honors at the Union Cemetery. Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Ernest and his family.

Ernest was born on February 1, 1946 in Algona, Iowa to Anthony A. Thilges Sr. and Mabel Helene Ruhnke. Ernest grew up with a strong sense of family and faith. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force as a communications specialist, completing two tours in Vietnam. His service shaped his strength, resilience, and quiet wisdom—qualities that remained with him throughout his life.

After his military service, Ernest worked with the DOT before starting a career as a data analyst for the Internal Revenue Service. In his later years, he brought warmth and dedication to his work at Kroger Grocery Store before retiring.

On October 5, 1999 Ernest married his love, Rose Ann Head. Together, they created a life filled with joy, travel and cherished memories. They especially enjoyed spending time at their timeshare in Daytona Beach—walking along

the shores, exploring new restaurants and attending the Daytona 500. Their bond was a testament to enduring love and companionship. Rose's passing in 2013 was a profound loss, but Ernest carried her memory and their shared faith in every step thereafter.

Ernest was a devoted father and grandfather. He is survived by his daughters, Kelly (Jerry) Hartema and Kristie (David) Forgy both of Alden, Iowa; his eight grandchildren: Mackenzie, Morgan, Rachel and Scott (children of Kelly and Jerry) and Colton, Blake, Mallorie and Miranda (children of Kristie and David) and nine great-grandchildren: Jaxon, Kimber, Reid, Lane, Elliot, Henry, Wyatt, Charlotte, and Thatcher—who brought him endless pride and joy.

He is also survived by his siblings, Marie Rameyer of Iowa Falls, Iowa, LeeLanne Stine of Estherville, Iowa and his brother, Anthony "Tony" Thilges Jr. (Karim Thilges) of Hubbard, Iowa.

Ernest spent his final years in Ball Ground, Georgia before relocating to Hampton, Iowa in March of 2025 to be closer to family. A faithful Christian, he lived his life with quiet grace, humility and strength. His presence was steady and kind, his stories full of experience and wisdom and his love for his family unwavering.

Ernest was preceded in death by his wife, Rose Ann Thilges; his sister, Elizabeth Steinfeldt and his parents.

He leaves behind a legacy of service, love, and cherished memories. His spirit will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 22. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Iowa Falls - Woodley Funeral Home  
516 S. Oak Street  
Iowa Falls, IA 50126  
(641) 648-7700

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Iowa Falls, IA 50126  
(641) 648-7700

# Tribute Wall

FG

“ *From Rose's Children and Grandchildren purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernest Thilges.*



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**From Rose's Children and Grandchildren** - May 21, 2025 at 04:50 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ernest Thilges.*



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May 21, 2025 at 02:01 PM

YF

“ *Your Iowa Central Electric Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ernest Thilges.*



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**Your Iowa Central Electric Family** - May 20, 2025 at 08:16 AM