



## John H. Thom

March 28, 1941 - July 26, 2013

John H. Thom, age 72, of Owen County passed away at Indiana University Health Bloomington Hospital, surrounded by close relatives and loving friends. He was born in Indianapolis to Jay W. Thom, M.D., and Julia Swain Thom, M.D., on March 28, 1941. He was educated at Orchard School and at John Herron Art Institute, studying under the late Paul Sweany.

In a career that began in New York City, then moved him to California and back to Indiana, John mastered most media, including carving, trompe l'ceil, Baroque restoration, furniture making, and murals.

His murals in the Bloomington area include the Scholars Inn Bakehouse and the Wylie House. In Louisville he painted his major outdoor mural, on the Starks Building downtown. In the last twenty years he decorated several mansions in Bloomington and Indianapolis, specializing in triptychs, domed ceilings and foyers. Recently he did marbling and gilding in the restoration of the Monroe County Courthouse.

John's abstract oils, such as those shown last year in Bloomington Gallery Walk, often reflect his sense of humor, some being characterized as "visual puns". He created limited editions of humorous folk artifacts for Nieman Marcus under his trademark of "The Worldly Cow".

He sketched, painted and built almost all his waking hours, often in the midst of partying visitors. The art he best mastered was the art of friendship, and he was an accomplished chef. Among the visitors gravitating to his country home, some of the most welcome were those who had nowhere else to go.

John is survived by his sister, Julia Clemons of Spencer, his brother and next door neighbor James A Thom and wife Dark Rain, his brother Robert C. Thom and wife Andrea of Valdosta, Georgia, his son Jeffrey Ellis Thom, nephews Alen, Thom and Craig Clemons, nieces Pam Gutierrez, and Cinda Farkas, and his apprentice Isiah Killion.

A memorial gathering will be announced at a later date.

Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org).

# Tribute Wall

GE

“ Dear friends and family,  
I prepared a piece for WFIU about John and his life. I'm chagrined that in house cleaning I lost James Alexander Thom's e-mail and phone number.  
It's available at <http://indianapublicmedia.org/arts/remembering-eclectic-artisan-john-thom/>...if that is too cumbersome...I'd be happy to supply...a recording.  
Thanks for the opportunity,  
George

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**George Walker** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

MA

“ Dear Jim: So sorry to learn of the death of your brother. You are quite a unique. Talent like that is a blessing to the community.---  
Marion Garmel

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**Marion Garmel** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

LI

“ I just learned of John's passing, and I extend my deepest sympathies to all who loved him. I first met John and Jeff in the early eighties, and they quickly became some of my favorite people. I was always impressed by John's talent, constant creativity, humor, and good heart, and I was glad to be his friend. It has to be at least ten years since I last saw him---life is like that---but I have not and would never forget him.

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**Lisa Williams** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

WU

“ We at the Wylie House Museum are so grateful to have John's talent and art live on here in the museum. The beautiful, charming mural he created for the museum warmly greets all who visit.

*Our deepest condolences,  
Carey Beam, Interim Director  
Wylie House staff and volunteers*

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**Wylie House Museum, Indiana University** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

JI

“ *Jeff, James and Family-*

*I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was always a good friend and neighbor. We had so many good times together in the years I've known you.*

*I still have the picture of John, Mike Marshall, John Pitchford, Raymond Griffith and others in their cowboy hats and ready to party and now you're with our friends- seems so soon for all of you.*

*May the family be blessed and kept through this hard time. Not seeing John go by the house in his little sports car or seeing him at Marsh will leave emptiness for me- I can only imagine what the family must feel. Always be a good son, Jeff! You're all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Jim Fielder*

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**Jim Fielder** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

BE

“ *So very sorry to hear about your brother and brother in law. May help you in this time of sadness. Your friend from Marsh Beverly*

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**Beverly McArtor** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

AL

“ Sending my condolences on the loss of John. I would love to reconnect with the family and share remembrances. I have a lot of fond memories growing up as neighbors in Terre Haute. I am in Lebanon and you can reach me through my wife's email at [blaclav@yahoo.com](mailto:blaclav@yahoo.com)  
Please know that I am thinking of you at this time.

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**Alan LaClave** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

SU

“ Dear James and Dark Rain:  
I am so sorry to hear about your brother, James. Such a loving tribute in the paper. I will be thinking about you both in the days ahead.  
With love,  
Susan Neville

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**Susan Neville** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

DJ

“ My sincere condolences to the family of John Thom, especially to his brother, James Alexander. The loss of someone with so much talent and skill is felt very deeply. As a representative of Clan Craig and the Craig's of Scotland and America, I am reminded of our mottos which give comfort.

*Vive Deo Et Vives: Live with God and Live Forever.*

*Jai' Bonne Esperance: I have Good Hope.*

*Laird Sir Knight  
Donald I. Craig, Jr.*

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**Donald Craig, Jr.** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM

GL

“ Jeff and the rest of John's family,

*Please accept my condolences on the loss of John. I became acquainted with him in the late 1980s and last saw and spoke with him only a couple of months ago. Even at some great distance, I feel a sense of loss. John was a great friend indeed and a very generous person and welcoming host, as well as an immeasurably talented man. I will miss him very much.*

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**Glenn Taylor** - October 26, 2015 at 04:09 PM