



Claude Henry Thigpen

December 15, 1927 - March 3, 2022

There was an earlier time, a time when the Florida State University athletics program was a little smaller and quieter, and maybe even a little kinder. In those days, fans knew the iconic leaders of the University more by their first names than by their titles. 'Bernie' was the President. 'Bobby' was the coach. And 'Claude' ran the ticket office.

'Bernie's' door was always open (and he might even share a beer). 'Bobby' would always put his arm around you and ask about your mother.

And whenever there were any questions or special requests about tickets, Seminole fans routinely knew to "call Claude". No last name was necessary. Claude was a welcoming friend to all Seminole fans, Boosters, and alumni.

Those days have long passed. And now, Claude Thigpen has joined his pals, Bernie Sliger and Bobby Bowden, on a pleasant celestial plane far above the stadium.

Claude H. Thigpen was born in Greenville, Florida on December 15th, 1927, the son of Elzie and Rosa Bell Thigpen.

After graduating from Greenville High School, Claude joined the United States Air Force, stationed variously in Japan and Korea, as well as in the States. After seven years in uniform, he left the Service and re-located to Tallahassee to advance his education.

He completed Business School at Lively and began working as an accountant with the FSU Athletic Department while continuing with advanced courses at FSU.

During Claude Thigpen's 35-year career with Florida State Athletics, his responsibilities included accounting, ticket manager, business manager, football team travel manager, game-day operations and overseeing the courtesy car program.

Highly respected by his peers in Athletics, his humility and good nature along with his keen business sense, enabled him to gain the confidence of every FSU Director of Athletics, both full and part-time, over the course of 54 years. He holds the

distinction of
having worked in FSU Athletics longer than any other employee.

Claude was a member of Thomasville Road Baptist Church; the Seminole Boosters; the FSU Letterman's Club; and the FSU Alumni Association. Claude was also inducted into the FSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008. During the retirement years, Claude enjoyed golf, fishing, working in his yard and especially times spent with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother Lark; and his son Greg. Claude is survived by his loving and faithful wife of 56 years, Carleen; sons, Martin Thigpen (Jane) of Monticello and Chuck Golden (Elaine) of St. Augustine; daughters, Angela Breon (Robert) of Tallahassee, Debbie Byrd (Alan) of St. George Island and Connie Duncan (Scooter) of Monticello; daughter-in-law, Sheila Thigpen of Sopchoppy; sister, Lillian Harris (Sonny) of Greenville; niece, Sonya Morris (Mike) of Greenville; nephew, Jeff Harris (Pam) of Monticello; seventeen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank all the dedicated caregivers that took such good care of Claude during his illness. We will forever be grateful for their kindness and care.

The family will receive guests at 10:00AM on Monday, March 7, 2022 at Thomasville Road Baptist Church followed by the funeral service at 11:00AM. The service will conclude at MeadowWood Memorial Park, with military honors. In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Mr. Thigpen may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Thigpen family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

MeadowWood Memorial Park

700 Timberlane Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Thomasville Road Baptist Church
3131 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Funeral Service

MAR 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Thomasville Road Baptist Church
3131 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Claude Thigpen was such a joy for those lucky enough to have spent time with him. As a neighbor, he always reminded me of Clint Eastwood as he moved large, very heavy objects around in the yard in a constant effort to make sure his landscaping was up to snuff. In 14 years, I never had an unpleasant conversation with him and he was so often a beacon of light and positivity with his sense of humor.

He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word and I'm honored to have known him. I will miss our talks about the fate of various FSU sports teams, but most of all I'll miss the presence that he was in our neighborhood and our community. Prayers for his dear wife, Carleen, and the family.

God speed, my friend.



Joe Davis - March 14, 2022 at 08:29 PM

SS

“ What a great tribute to "Claude". A fine true Southern Gentleman. Claude, Bobby, and Bernie made FSU football fun and successful. Their wives did just as much as these men did. It was a fun and successful crew to be around. Mr. Thigpen brought FSU and all its fans to the height of success.. Always so patient and nice, and took care of business. Claude will be handling Heaven's ticket sales for everyone, so we all we be in good shape.

Sten Sliger - March 06, 2022 at 04:47 PM

BH

“ Claude had a way of making everyone feel special and treated everyone as if they were. He will be missed by many!

Burt Hayner

Burt Hayner - March 06, 2022 at 10:44 AM

DB

Martin , sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family

Donald Bennett - March 12, 2022 at 02:19 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Claude Henry Thigpen.



March 05, 2022 at 09:33 PM

MD

“ When we were visiting our son Joe and daughter-in-law Elle, we had many wonderful chats with Claude. He was so friendly to us, and always had funny comments that made us laugh. We will miss him very much upon our visits to Tallahassee. - Desi and Mike Davis

Mike Davis - March 05, 2022 at 09:19 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Claude Henry Thigpen.*



March 05, 2022 at 09:10 AM



“ *I remember Claude so well and how friendly and helpful he was during my brief time working in the Athletic Department at FSU. You could not ask for anyone nicer and a better employee.*
Bettie Bedell

Bettie M. Bedell - March 04, 2022 at 05:18 PM



Claude was a man who was respected by everyone who worked for or with him. He was always concerned with what was the right thing to do. Most of all, Claude was a good and honest person you could rely on and trust in all respects. When i think back to my FSU days, Mr Thigpen is always a part of those memories. God bless him and his family.

Gary Huff - March 06, 2022 at 01:59 PM