



David Carroll Thornton

January 15, 1939 - August 26, 2025

David Carroll Thornton passed away on August 26, 2025, in Danville, Virginia, at the age of 86. He was born on January 15, 1939, in Danville, Virginia, to the late Olin Corbin and Margaret Wilkerson Thornton.

David was a proud graduate of Dan River High School. His lifelong passion for sports led him to a career in journalism. He began as a sports reporter for local newspapers in central Virginia and worked his way up, eventually becoming Sports Editor of the Lynchburg News & Daily Advance. He enjoyed covering local high school sports, Lynchburg minor league baseball, University of Virginia athletics, and golf in central Virginia.

An avid golfer himself and a devoted sports fan, David especially enjoyed watching his son play high school sports and following UVA basketball (where his son, Dean, attended medical school).

David was preceded in death by his late wife, Brenda Thornton. He is survived by his sister, Linda Dodson, and his brother, Paul Thornton, both of Ringgold, VA. He is survived by his son, Dr. D. Dean Thornton of Birmingham, AL, as well as Dean's mother and David's first wife, Kay Nunley of Lynchburg, VA. David was a proud grandfather to his grandchildren, Patrick and Eliza Thornton, and father-in-law to Tracy Thornton, all of Birmingham, AL.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at the Blankenship-Thornton Cemetery in Ringgold, VA.

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel is serving the Thornton Family.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG **30**. 11:00 AM (est)

Blankenship-Thornton Family Cemetery
Kentuck Road
Ringgold, VA

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Dean and family and friends so sorry for your great loss of David we sending prayers for comfort in these times of grief in Jesus name
John and Dianne Gilbert.*

John and Dianne Gilbert - August 28, 2025 at 07:55 PM

KP

“ *David was my favorite person I helped take care of during his last times. He was always cracking jokes and laughing with me. Looked forward to his Pepsi at supper time and just sitting having conversations. I will truly miss him.*



Karen L Payne - August 28, 2025 at 05:16 PM

DN

Linda & family , David was a good ,friend and neighbor I will miss him.

Dodson T. Neal - August 28, 2025 at 06:13 PM

KM

Linda, So sorry about the death of your brother. God bless! Kenneth Merricks

Kenneth Merricks - August 29, 2025 at 08:43 AM

BW

*To Mr. Thornton's family:
Mr. Thornton was the kind or patient you wish you could clone: he had a wonderful sense of humor, he liked to joke and carry on with the staff at Roman Eagle and he kind. Very kind. When he didn't display his usual pleasant self we knew he didn't feel well and we took action to help him.
I am so sorry for your loss...and ours. He will be missed terribly. God bless you all during this sad time.*

Billie Carter Wyatt - August 29, 2025 at 09:39 AM

JG

*With deepest sympathy to Linda and family on the passing of David.
Jane Glass Gilbert*

Jane Glass Gilbert - August 29, 2025 at 10:08 AM

KE

*David was a lifelong friend. Twelve years at DRHS and very happy to
reconnect in recent years. Condolences to Linda, Paul and the family.
Keister Evans*

Keister Evans - August 29, 2025 at 05:26 PM