



John Julius Thorne Sr.

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Jan. 17, 1924 — Nov. 9, 2010

Another American hero is now with the Lord. Mr. John Julius Thorne, Sr., 86, died Tuesday at Moses H. Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

Mr. Thorne was born Jan. 17, 1924 in Wilson to William Carl and Mary Elizabeth "Miss Betty" Baker Thorne.

An outstanding

high school athlete participating in football, basketball and baseball, he continued his educational and athletic career at Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, where he played basketball and baseball. His professional career as a teacher, coach, student mentor and educational sales representative with Grolier Educational Company impacted the lives of many American youth. He was an avid UNC Tar Heel fan known as the Pin Man by hundreds of young Tar Heels who received his gift of a Tar Heel pin for their support of the Heels. He was an avid biker, often biking with his daughter, Linda, from Greensboro to Chapel Hill to attend football and basketball games. He also was an annual fundraiser and biking participant in the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Tou-de-Tanglewood until his health rendered him unable to do so after the age of 82. He was an avid gardener, dancer, music lover, tennis player, Boy Scout leader, Sunday school teacher and community volunteer. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW and DAV.

Mr. Thorne is survived by his wife of 63 years, Gwendolyn High Thorne of Greensboro; daughter Linda Thorne Collins and husband, Bill, of Greensboro; sons, John Jr. and wife, Shelley, of Elm City, and William Howard "Billy" of Bath; two sisters, Lula Norris Moehrbach and husband, Rudy, and Annie Morris Joyner and husband, Joe, both of Wilson; two brothers, Carl and wife, Kay, of Matthews and Marvin and wife, Brownie, of Largo, Fla.; four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, 2010 at Joyner's Funeral Home, Wilson. A graveside service with military honors will be held at 2 p.m. in Evergreen Memorial Park in Wilson.

In lieu of flowers please send memorial contributions in his memory to National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 2211 W. Meadowview Road, Suite 30, Greensboro, NC 27407.

Condolences may be directed to [www.joyners.net](http://www.joyners.net).

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