

Joseph F. "Joe" Thoennes was born on April 10, 1925, to John and Katherine (Terfher) Thoennes and grew up on a farm near Urbank. Joe attended Thoennes District 85 School through the eighth grade and worked various jobs in the Urbank/Millerville area until being inducted in the United States Army.

On September 17, 1951, Joe was united in marriage to Lorraine Ritten. Joe was deployed to Korea to continue his military service. Joe received a commendation ribbon with a metal pendant from the United States Army in recognition as Master Sergeant for his meritorious service from 1951-1953 while serving in Korea as Sergeant of an antiaircraft Artillery automatic weapons platoon, helping to coordinate and maintain in constant readiness the eight firing units within his platoon. By his continued intelligent supervision of training, operation, and discipline, he kept the initiative, zeal, and devotion to duty in all of his assignments which reflected great credit on himself and his military service. Upon honorable discharge from the military, Joe and Lorraine moved to Milwaukee, WI where he did plumbing and heating. In 1954, they moved to Alexandria; he was Assistant Manager at Wedum's Supply and was later promoted to Manager. Joe was a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, Elks, VFW and American Legion.

Joe died on October 23, 2020, at the age of 95. He is survived by his six children, Nancy (Fred) Bocklund, Wayne (Carol) Thoennes, Diann (Jeffrey) Rolin, William (Lynn) Thoennes, Kenneth (Christine) Thoennes, and Randy (Paulette) Thoennes; sixteen grandchildren, Matthew (Sara) Bocklund, Jana Bocklund, Jeremy (Candy) Thoennes, Angela (John) Nelson, Michelle (Aaron) Zollner, Stephanie (Corey) Groetsch, John (Marissa) Rolin, Michael (Shari) Rolin, Jacob (Sherri) Thoennes, Rebecca (Ben) Hittle, Jordan Thoennes, Corey (Jamie) Thoennes, Benjamin (Katherine) Thoennes, Brian Thoennes, Vanessa (Kevin) Ryan, Alyssa Thoennes; several great-grandchildren; and sister, Laura Cichy. Joe is preceded in death by his wife; great-granddaughter; parents; brothers and sisters.

Safely Home

I am safely home in heaven dear ones;

Oh, so happy and so bright!

There is perfect joy and beauty

In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,

Every restless tossing passed;

I am now at peace forever,

Safely home in heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly

Trod the valley of the shade?

Oh! But Jesus' love illumined

Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me

In that way so hard to tread;

And with Jesus' arm to lean on,

Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,

For I love you dearly still:

Try to look beyond earth's shadows,

Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you,

So you must not idly stand;

Do it now, while life remaineth ~

You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,

He will gently call you Home;

Oh, the rapture of that meeting,

Oh, the joy to see you come!

In Memory of

Joseph F. Thoennes

April 10, 1925 † October 23, 2020

Mass of Christian Burial

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Alexandria, Minnesota

Saturday, October 31, 2020 1:00 PM

Officiant

Reverend Father Steve Binsfeld

Musicians

Laurie Youngers Bernard Thoennes

Casket Bearers

Jeremy Thoennes Matthew Bocklund

Stephanie Groetsch Jacob Thoennes

Corey Thoennes Vanessa Ryan

Honorary Casket Bearers

Jana Bocklund Angela Nelson

Michelle Zollner John Rolin

Michael Rolin Rebecca Hittle

Jordan Thoennes Benjamin Thoennes

Brian Thoennes Alyssa Thoennes

Military Honors

Alexandria Veterans Memorial Unit

Minnesota National Honor Guard

Interment

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

Alexandria, Minnesota