



**HAROLD JAMES “JIM” THOMAS**  
**DECEMBER 1, 1936 TO JULY 5, 2017**

Jim Thomas, 80, of Centralia, Washington, spent his last Fourth of July surrounded by friends and family and died peacefully at home July 5, 2017, following a sudden diagnosis and short battle with cancer.

Jim met the love of his life, Nancy Louise Cherry, and the two married August 13, 1960. Their family grew to include one daughter, four sons, and ten grandchildren.

Jim was named a Babe Ruth District Commissioner in 2000, and served in that role until 2009, when he became assistant State Commissioner.

Jim was inducted into the Southwest Washington Babe Ruth Hall of Fame in 2007, and a field at Borst Park was named after him. He subsequently was inducted into the Pacific Northwest Babe Ruth Hall of Fame in 2016 as he continued in this service to the community.

In 2013, Jim led the effort to host five Babe Ruth regional tournaments simultaneously at Borst Park, which helped raise thousand of dollars for the local baseball community and garnered national attention from the Babe Ruth community.

Jim’s family owned and operated the Minnehaha Grocery, a gas and feed business. Active in the Kiwanis Club; Grand Mound Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Public Works District and Volunteer Fire Department, Jim and Nancy opened a Farmers Insurance Agency in Grand Mound, which later incorporated a Washington State Licensing Agency and State Liquor Agency and Grand Mound Video.

Jim was also an active member of the Marine Corp League of Lewis County, Joseph P. Bier detachment 1192; St. Mary’s Catholic Church; Fraternal Order of Elks; and the City of Centralia political community.

