



Melba Louise Thomas

December 2, 1943 - May 2, 2026

Melba Louise Thomas, of Ironton, MO, entered into rest on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the age of 82 years and 5 months. She was born December 2, 1943, in Glover, MO, a daughter of the late Everett and Bessie (Jackson) Eudy. In 1960, Melba was united in marriage to Donald Dunlap who preceded her in rest on August 17, 1968. To this union four children were born, Donnie Dunlap of Hopewell, MO who survives, and Tina Gaynor, David Dunlap, and Betty Dunlap who preceded her in rest.

Also surviving is her daughter from her marriage to Don Thomas, Patty Risher of Ironton, MO, two grandchildren, Heather Dunlap and Brandon Dunlap, and many more loving family members and friends.

She was preceded in rest by her parents, children Tina, David, and Betty, a great-grandson Joseph Matthew, two brothers Doug and Victor Eudy, and a sister Pat Marler.

For many years Melba supported her family by working in home healthcare as a caregiver. She was a caregiver to more than just those who she was tasked to take care of, she took care of everyone she could. She loved to help and passed that on to her family members. She was a loving person who was always there to show love and compassion, and did so with a smile on her face and love in her heart. On Easter of this year, she was officially saved and gave her heart to her Lord Jesus Christ.

Melba Louise Thomas was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She will be missed by all who were blessed to know and love her.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, beginning at 11:00 am from the Cole Family Funeral Home.

A Visitation for friends and family to gather will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, beginning at 5:00 pm and lasting until 8:00 pm from the Cole Family Funeral Home.

Interment will follow the services in the Huff cemetery.

Pastor Dan Stiles will be officiating the services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Online condolences may be made at www.colefamilyfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Huff

Annapolis, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cole Family Funeral Home
210 E Reynolds St
Ironton, MO 63650
(573) 546-0742

Celebration of Life

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

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210 E Reynolds St
Ironton, MO 63650
(573) 546-0742

Tribute Wall



“ 60 files added to the album Life Tributes



Cole Family Funeral Home - May 07 at 12:58 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melba Louise Thomas.



May 05 at 06:30 PM



“ Jackson family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Melba Louise Thomas.



Jackson family - May 05 at 06:16 PM

JF

“ Jackson family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melba Louise Thomas.

Jackson family - May 05 at 06:16 PM

CT

“ Charles and Evon Turner lit a candle in memory of Melba Thomas



Charles and Evon Turner - May 05 at 02:09 PM

BR

“ I’ve known Melba since I was in grade school and she was in high school. She would get on the school bus and her skirt billowed and filled the aisle from her can can slip! She had beautiful long dark hair styled in a pageboy manner, and long manicured nails. She was such a beauty!!!

All her high school friends also rode the bus: Francis Stroud, Shirley and Charlotte Henson, Carolyn and Barb Warren, and Betty Fleetwood with their stylish hairdos and bouffant skirts that really impressed grade school me.

Many years later Melba and my mom were good friends, and she and Melba attended many family fish fries and get-togethers or have lunch — Linda, Glenda, Melba, and Mama and various other friends.

We corresponded for several years after Mama died, and I visited with her occasionally when I was in town. I’m going to miss my friend. RIP dear Melba.

Belinda Savage Robison - May 04 at 05:59 PM