



## Russell Lee Thaxton

January 31, 1926 - August 9, 2020

Russell L. "23 Chief" Thaxton, 94, of Cross Lanes, passed away Sunday, August 9, 2020.

Russell was born on January 31, 1926 in Charleston. He was a son of the late Otis Edward and Ethel Evelyn Thaxton. He was also preceded in death by his loving wife of 69 years, Mary W. Thaxton; son, Dana Thaxton; brother, Ralph Thaxton; and grandson, Jacob Thaxton.

Russell served his country in the Army during World War II, and later a member of the American Legion.

Russell was employed by Union Carbide 32 years as a laboratory technician and was the last blacksmith of the South Charleston plant when he retired in 1982. He was active in the Little League for about 25 years. He served as an active member of the Volunteer Fire Service with the State of West Virginia for over 65 years, more than 45 years with Tyler Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, and 25 years with Sissonville Volunteer Fire Department. His last 18 years at Tyler Mountain he was the fire chief. He was appointed to the Kanawha County Fire Board by the County Commission, was an honorary member of the Sissonville Volunteer Fire Department and a lifetime member of the West Virginia State Fireman's Association. For the last 25 years he served on the Legislative Committee of the West Virginia State Fire

Association. He received numerous fire service awards. He received the Jefferson Award for outstanding community service.

He loved spending time with his family and friends, especially hunting, fishing with his fishing boat, and gardening with his tractor. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his children, Kristina Riffle (James) of Nitro, Rodney Thaxton (Maliwan) of Tyler Mountain and Jeff Thaxton (Sandy) of Tyler Mountain; grandchildren, Matthew Wade Thaxton, Lora Abernathy (Gary), Elana Novak (Todd), Kevin Kiser (Emily), Lindsay Kiser and Jeremy Thaxton (Annie); and great-grandchildren, Mason Thaxton, Alissa Thaxton, Anna Kiser and Henry Kiser.

The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday August 14, 2020 at Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, at 409 Sixth Ave, St. Albans, with Pastor Ronald Thaxton officiating. Burial will follow in Tyler Mountain Memory Gardens, Cross Lanes.

Visitation will be Thursday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the funeral home. A very special thank you to Sandy Thaxton, Beth McClanahan, Katie Shafer, and the staff at CAMC Memorial 5 Front, for their special care of our Dad and our family.

Visit Russell's tribute page at [BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com](http://BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com) to share memories, stories and condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 409 Sixth Avenue, St. Albans is honored to serve the Thaxton family.

# Cemetery Details

## Tyler Mountain Memory Garden

5233 Rocky Fork Rd  
Cross Lanes, WV 25313

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home  
409 Sixth Avenue  
Saint Albans, WV 25177  
(304) 727-4325

## Funeral Service

AUG 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home  
409 Sixth Avenue  
Saint Albans, WV 25177  
(304) 727-4325

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Russell Lee Thaxton.* ”



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August 13, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Russell Lee Thaxton.* ”



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August 13, 2020 at 06:45 PM



“ *Diane Viands lit a candle in memory of Russell Lee Thaxton* ”



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**Diane Viands** - August 13, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ *Glenn W. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Russell Lee Thaxton.* ”



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**Glenn W.** - August 13, 2020 at 12:32 AM

GW

“ It is my good fortune to be able to call Fire Chief Russell Lee Thaxton my friend and mentor. Any time I would see him or seek guidance on a problem I was dealing with, he was always ready to share his wisdom and give me the support I needed to overcome the difficulty I was struggling with. To Jeff, Thank You, for always encouraging him to go with you to Fire Schools and Conventions, to participate in the activities and conversations we so much enjoyed him being a part of. He was always good to me, he was very proud of his family and I will miss him.  
Glenn Whittington, Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department

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**Glenn Whittington** - August 13, 2020 at 12:17 AM

JW

“ It is often said of those who pass, "He was a good man." Russell let his life say it for him. I had the opportunity to work with him in a variety of situations. In all of them his knowledge and dry sense of humor made it a pleasure. Beyond the fire service the greatest blessing was to call him my friend. To his family and to his department, I say from my heart Russell was indeed a good man.  
J. D. Waggoner

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**J. D. Waggoner** - August 12, 2020 at 07:06 PM

TG

“ I am broken hearted to hear of the passing of Russell. He has been a great friend and mentor through the years, always enjoyed the time we spent together. Rest in peace 23 Chief and thank you for your service to your country and your community. Prayers for the Thaxton family, although I can't be there, you are in my heart, thoughts and prayers.

Tim Gooch

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**Tim Gooch** - August 12, 2020 at 02:45 PM



“ *Rest In Peace 23 Chief. I, and many others, have been blessed to learn, know, and serve under you. You have certainly earned your halo and wings for your honorable service here on earth. I am proud to have called you my friend and to have shared a laugh or two with you. May God Bless the Thaxton family during this dark time.*

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**Tom Miller** - August 12, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Russell Lee Thaxton.*



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August 11, 2020 at 10:28 AM