CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR DAVID ALLEN “UNCIE” THOMPSON



Prelude 2:00-4:00 - Video of Uncie playing, visitation, and treasures explored 4:00 PM EST

1. Welcome – James E. Thompson

2. Recognition of Guests - Sláinte to Uncie - RKT

3. Amazing Grace - Mr Lucas begins Accapella / Matt Piano - All Sing

4. Preface – RKT

5. Chapters of Uncie’s Life – Part I

6. Musical Reflection – Ave Maria - Dr. Dobbs & RKT

7. Reflections – Brother Ken Thompson

8. Chapters of Uncie’s Life – Part II

9. Eulogy– James Thompson

10. Musical Reflection – Hallelujah - Matt Packer & RKT

11. Chapters of Uncie’s Life – Part II

12. Mimi’s Song - Dr. Dobbs

13. Chapters of Uncie’s Life – Part III

14. Danny Boy – Sung by RKT Music Box Accapella

15. Blessing- Fr. Paul O’Connor (Blessing of the Ashes) - In Paradisium MJP

16. Gifts Uncie’s/ Beads/Golden Tassel/Giving Tree Apple/Silver Coin

17. Photo Tribute Video - Music -Danny DJ -Time to say Goodbye

18. The Irish Blessing – Sung by RKT, Signed by James Thompson Accapella

19. Thank You & Invitation to Fellowship

20. Closing Hymn – How Great Thou Art - Matt Packer Play and Lead All

21. Final Tribute – Sláinte to Uncie - Scotland the Brave

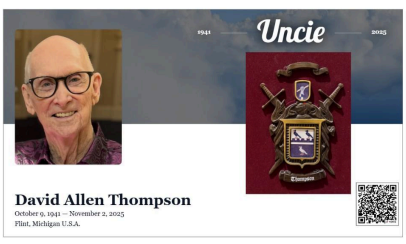
1.

(Danny starts Benedictus - Low…)

Dad welcomes

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to this Celebration of Life for David Allen Thompson,
Known and loved by so many as Uncie.

(Introduce RKT)



2.

Today, we gather not only in this room,
But all across the world.
This celebration is being livestreamed to loved ones watching from America, Peru, Africa, Ireland, Hawaii, Europe, and nearly every continent on the face of the earth.

Your presence, whether here or joining us from afar, speaks to how widely Uncie’s love, humor, wisdom, and gentle spirit traveled.

Wherever you are, we welcome you with full hearts as we honor
a remarkable man whose life touched countless others.
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Recognize

Let us recognize those who are with us today.

Uncies Bothers in Christ in the Marianist Community

Friends from his teaching days

Friends and Coworkers from his plethora of jobs

Friends who knew him from his assisted living palaces

Greater Heights Academy friends

His immediate family, brothers, nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Peace

Turn and greet one another in Uncies way of bringing people together…

SLÁINTE TO UNCIE
What "Sláinte" Means
We begin with a word close to Uncie's Irish heart: Sláinte.
Sláinte means
To your health
To your life
To your well-being
To your peace
And to your wholeness

It is a toast, a blessing, and a prayer.

When we say "Sláinte to Uncie," we say
To his life
To his legacy
To his memory
To his eternal peace

****

3

OPENING HYMN

This banner behind me was made in the 1970s by my dear mother and has traveled around the globe…



I played a recording to uncie years ago of this man singing, my cook at Greater Heights Academy, where I was Principal / Superintendent, he is also a pastor and a singer

We invited Mr. Lucas to sing the first verse of Amazing Grace accapella and we will join in with my brother Matt Packer -

Amazing Grace

4.
PREFACE
Read by Richard Kerry Thompson

The webpage created is the dissertation… QR Code on back

How does one begin to measure a life so richly lived
A life filled with faith
Humor
Music
Prayer
Service
And love

How do we capture the laughter?
The lessons
And the gentle presence that one soul gave so generously

To speak of David Allen "Uncie" Thompson is to understand
that no summary can ever fully contain his joy,
his wisdom,
his compassion,
or his generosity.

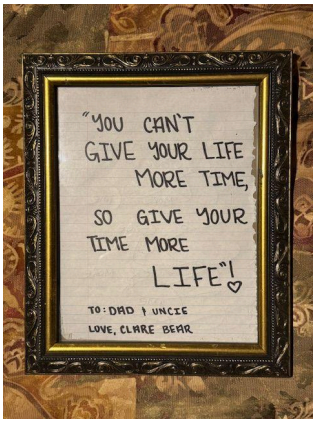
What follows is the essence of a remarkable journey
woven through years of faith and service
creativity and imagination
family and friendship
and love freely given.

There are surely memories that cannot be written
but what cannot be written remains alive in our hearts.

Please forgive any omissions.
These words are offered with love
in honor of a man whose presence touched every corner of the world he walked in.

I have done my best to honor him in the spirit he lived
with joy
with faith
with gratitude
and always with a touch of Irish blarney.
Every story
every photo
every song
carries a piece of his gentle wisdom.

His laughter filled our days
His faith guided our steps
His love remains our inheritance.
With love and gratitude, I present this celebration of his life.



You can't give your life more time so give your time more life.

5.
THE CHAPTERS OF HIS LIFE

CHAPTER ONE
A Life of Faith, Family, Joy, and Generosity

David Allen “Uncie” Thompson was born on October nine, nineteen forty one in Detroit Michigan
to Jerome Wesley Thompson and Virginia Mary Hull Thompson,
both of whom preceded him in death.

He was one of six sons:
James
Kenneth
Richard
David
Donald
Timothy

His youngest brother Timothy also preceded him in death.

His surviving brothers
James
Kenneth
Richard
Donald
stood with him across a lifetime of shared memories stories and love.

His childhood was filled with faith music humor community and the beginnings of a heart full of generosity.

CHAPTER TWO
The Pontification of Love

In the family, David's gentle reflections were lovingly called his pontifications.

He could take a simple moment
a rainbow on the wall
a bird outside the window
a child's question
and reveal its deeper meaning.

He taught without lecturing
he inspired without insisting
he loved without limit.

He made everyday life feel sacred.

And so let us begin with todays celebration of Life
This is just a synopsis of Uncies webpage I have created over the past two weeks - QR Code

CHAPTER THREE
The Marianist Years The Formation of a Servant's Heart

At fifteen years old, David entered the Marianists in Beacon New York. These years formed the foundation of his life.

He lived in a community, devoted himself to prayer studied deeply and served wholeheartedly.

He taught biology, religion, choir, and band
and the dignity of the human person.

At Hackett Catholic Central, he coached Hockey, and he recorded a big-band vinyl album featuring his students and a testament to his imagination and musical spirit.

He also mentored young men at Circle T Ranch
working alongside his brother Jim -Jim's wife Katie
and their family.

Circle T Ranch was one of his most meaningful ministries
a place where young lives were shaped with compassion and strength.

The Marianist community—founded by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade in 1817 in Bordeaux, France—is a Catholic religious family rooted in faith, education, and devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In that light, we honor David and all the marianists across the world and their service to humankind.

CHAPTER FOUR
Africa and Family Experiences
Faith on the Move

In 1976, Brother David Thompson was appointed by the provincial to traveled to
Nigeria
Kenya
Malawi
and Zambia
leading retreats for all the Marianist brothers and Priests.

He traveled with his father, Jerome
and reunited in Kenya with his
brother Brother Kenneth Thompson
a moment of faith and family intertwined across continents.

When he returned home, he created Family Experiences
a retreat program where families found joy
reflection
and connection at Bergamo East in Marcy, New York.

6.
AVE MARIA
MUSICAL REFLECTION - Dr Dobbs and RKT

In honor of the Marianist Community
Uncies Mother
And all mothers and women

Ave Maria
Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena - Maria, gratia plena

Ave, ave dominus
Dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus

Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tuae, Jesus
Ave Maria

Ave Maria
Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Ora pro nobis, Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus

Nunc et in hora mortis
Et in hora mortis nostrae
Et in hora mortis nostrae
Et in hora mortis nostrae
Ave Maria

7.

Call up my Uncle

BROTHER KEN THOMPSON SPEAKS

8.

8. Chapters of Uncie's Life – Part II

A New Beginning in Lay Ministry

In 1981, David transitioned from religious life.
He did not leave his calling; he expanded it.

He served as
a principal
an adult education leader
A technical writer
a Red Cross volunteer
a Guardian ad Litem
A tutor
a mentor
a guide
a friend
A big brother
And an advocate.

He lifted people when they were at their lowest
and helped them walk toward new beginnings.

CHAPTER SIX
Performer, Storyteller, and Teacher of Joy

David believed imagination was holy.

Through his mime, Pinky
His performance of The Giving Tree
His retelling of Where the Wild Things Are
He taught children and adults the sacredness of joy.

He believed joy itself was prayer
and he shared it freely.

CHAPTER SEVEN
The Knight of Ireland

David embraced his Irish heritage with humor and pride.

He knighted his great-nephew, Danny
teaching him the Old Code of the Knight
a lesson in courage
humility
and love.

He became known as
The Knight of Ireland
a title he lived with laughter and heart.

Thus, the statue you encountered today.
Uncie loved this present he was given by RKT and kids Christmas 2024.
The great thing was that with his dementia, each time he lifted up the visor of the helmet was a new experience!

He was also given a chain mail suit of armor
(in the realm of a sweatshirt).
Uncie loved this and wanted to breathe his last breaths in it. He would walk around the nursing homes and bring joy to all.



The Old Code of the Knight

The Old Code of the Knight sets forth a vision of the knight whose honor, courage, and virtue are legendary.

There are those who believe that this dates back to the days of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

A knight is sworn to valor.
His heart knows only virtue.
His blade defends the helpless.
His might upholds the weak.
His sword, his word speaks only truth.
His wrath undoes the wicked.

Thus, the Old Code of the Knight.

CHAPTER EIGHT
Johnny Walker the Cane

As his walking became difficult
He named his cane Johnny Walker.

It became his companion
his humor
his balance
and his dignity.

He showed that even in difficulty
There is room for grace
and for laughter.

CHAPTER NINE
The Sweet Tooth of a Saint

David loved desserts
black raspberry ice cream
cheesecake
pastries
and chocolates.

He called them
little sacraments of joy
because they reminded him that life
should be savored.

Thus today, after our celebration, we will have delicious cakes and ice cream in his honor.
Thank you, Ms Davis and Mr. Lucas

CHAPTER TEN
The Universal Sign of Love

The American Sign Language I Love You
taught to him by his brother Jim
became his silent blessing everywhere he went.

It was his way of saying
You matter
You are loved
You are not alone.

CHAPTER ELEVEN
Courage in His Final Chapter

In his final years
Alzheimer’s
aphasia
and a malignant brain tumor
tested his body
but never dimmed his spirit.

He remained gentle kind present and full of quiet courage.

On All Souls Day
November 2, 2025
at exactly four forty-four in the afternoon
David Allen “Uncie” Thompson
took his final breath
held in the arms of his loving nephew.

His brothers James and Donald
and his goddaughter Virginia and her husband Marty
were present surrounding him with prayer love and peace.

His passing was peaceful holy
and full of grace.

9 - Eulogy

And now we invite up
My Hero - My Father - Uncies Brother to share

JAMES THOMPSON SPEAKS

10.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Hallelujah

Now I've heard there was a secret chord

That David played, and it pleased the Lord

But you don't really care for music, do you?

It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth

The minor falls, the major lifts

The baffled king composing Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I did my best, it wasn't much

I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch

I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you

And even though it all went wrong

I'll stand before the Lord of Song

With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

11. Chapters of Uncie’s Life – Part II

CHAPTER TWELVE
Magic Rainbow Productions and The Giving Tree Foundation

His creative gifts lived on through
Magic Rainbow Productions
and through The Giving Tree Foundation.

His mission of compassion and imagination continues
through every act of kindness done in his name.

We are continuing this mission in his name
The
UNCIES GIVING TREE FOUNDATION

To help those in need.
If you wish to give, please contact myself

CHAPTER THIRTEEN
The Irish Blessing in His Life

He lived the Irish Blessing every day
with gratitude
gentleness
faith
and joy.

It shaped his humor
his compassion
and the way he cared for others.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN
A Legacy of Love

The most incredible legacy David leaves is love.
Love that heals
Love that encourages
Love that lifts
Love that endures
Love that continues to ripple through the lives of everyone he touched.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN
The Copper Heart

A shimmering copper heart became one of his dearest symbols.
To him, it represented
beauty
faith
warmth
and the eternal truth that love never ends.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN
Minnesota Bones

Minnesota Bones originated in Detroit and traveled
through Kalamazoo, New York, California, Florida,
and back to Michigan.

It was meant to be displayed today
But was stolen in Flint
from a grocery store parking lot
while being brought here.

Despite security footage
no license plate could be identified.

But memories cannot be stolen.
Love cannot be stolen.
And his legacy lives on.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN
The Irish Scullycap

His Irish scully cap
soft, worn, familiar
was a symbol of comfort
identity
heritage
and humor.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN
The Castle of Tranquility

His final home at Tranquility Estates became his Castle
a sanctuary of peace created with devotion by his loving nephew.

It held music, light color crystals, and comfort.

We have worked with the wonderful people at Tranquilit,y Ms. Jan, Ms Gina, Ms. Ginna, and in the spirit of Uncie - his room will become a mini retreat center and meditation space for the staff.

CHAPTER NINETEEN
An die Musik

An die Musik expressed his belief that
Music is prayer
beauty heals
And art lifts the heart toward God.

Uncie loved the 2 cellos, and we, Uncie RKT, and my daughter Clarebear, went to see them in Tampa, Florida, when they started the concert with Benedictus Uncie stood up and yelled I LOVE YOU for all 18,000 people to hear.

12.

12. Mimi’s Song - Dr. Dobbs

Uncie would go with me to my opera lessons with Dr. Quincy Dobbs and sit right behind the piano as Doc would play.

So we invite Dr. Dobb's to play one of Uncies favorite songs from Puccini's Opera LaBoheme

MIMI’S SONG

And we invite you to open your hearts and minds, and to reflect on people in your life who have gone before us and who have brought music to your life.

A moment of reflection for all who have gone before us.

Play Mimi’s Song
Pause
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13. 13. Chapters of Uncie’s Life – Part III

CHAPTER TWENTY
The Crystals That Created Rainbows

He placed crystals in his windows so sunlight would break into rainbows
dancing across the room.

They reminded him that even a small light creates great beauty.

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE
The Birthday Book Tradition

Every year he wrote a Birthday Book
a journal of gratitude and reflection.

He celebrated his birthday for twelve days
a personal season of thanksgiving.
He invites us all to reflect on our birthdays

He tells a story of his mother giving him permission to skip school and ride a horse for his 12 birthday, and when the mother superior called his mother to ask why he was not in school, she said lovingly and firmly..
It's his birthday and he is celebrating by riding a horse.
Silence on the other end, and his mother said.
Thank hou Sister

CHAPTER TWENTY TWO
The Jerusalem Cross Ring

His Jerusalem Cross ring symbolized
his devotion to Christ
his Marianist heart
and his lifelong calling to serve.

CHAPTER TWENTY THREE
The Claddagh Ring

The Claddagh ring represents
love
loyalty
and friendship.

These virtues shaped every part of his life.

CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR
His Final Wish
Ireland

David’s remains will return to Ireland
his spiritual home
in Glendalough, County Wicklow.

He will be accompanied by
RKT
Liam
Mark
Brian
Clare
Fiona
and Danny.

Ireland was where he felt most alive
and now it will hold him forever.

Pause

14.

14. Danny Boy – Sung by RKT Music Box Accapella

DANNY BOY - Sung by RKT

Oh, Danny Boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
From glen to glen and down the mountainside
The summer’s gone and all the flowers are dying
'Tis you, it’s you must go, and Imustbide

Butcome ye backwhen summer’s inthe meadow
Or when the valley’s hushed and white with snow
'Tis I’ll be here in sunshine or in shadow
Oh, Danny Boy, oh Danny Boy, I love you so!

But when ye come, and all the flowers are dying
And I am dead, as dead I well may be
You’ll come and find the place where I am lying
And kneel and say an Ave there for me

And I shall hear, though soft you tread above me
And all my grave shall warmer, sweeter be
For ye will bend and tell me that you love me
And I will shall sleep in peace
until you come to me

15.15. Blessing- Fr. Paul O’Connor (Blessing of the Ashes) - In Paradisium MJP

Bring up my cousin on my mother's side…
My Mother's Brother's Son
To bless Uncies ashes

FR PAUL OCONNOR
Blessing of the Ashes

Pause

CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE
In Paradisum
May the Angels Lead You Into Paradise

Now we entrust him to God.

May the angels lead him into paradise
May the saints welcome him home
May he find eternal peace
And may his love remain with us forever.

MUSICAL RESPONSE
May the Angels Lead You Into Paradise

Pause

16.

16. Gifts Uncie’s/ Beads/Golden Tassel/Giving Tree Apple/Silver Coin

THE GIFTS OF UNCIE’S LEGACY
In the Spirit of the Three Kings

Uncie loved the story of the Three Kings
bringing gifts to the Christ Child.

Today you will receive three symbolic gifts and, of course, your celebration shamrock beads!

The Golden Tassel
A symbol of dignity, joy, and celebration.

The Giving Tree Apple
A reminder of how fully he gave of himself.

The Silver Coin
Angel on one side
clover on the other
a symbol of eternal life
and the truth that he is still near.

17.

17. Photo Tribute Video - Music -Danny DJ -Time to say Goodbye

PHOTO TRIBUTE VIDEO
A Visual Celebration of Uncie’s Life

Please turn your attention to the screen for a special video celebrating his story
his travels
his family
his ministry
his humor
and the joy he brought to the world.

(Time to Say Goodbye) 4:10 - DANNY THE DJ
Play video
Pause afterward

Cousin Joe

His Journey's Just Begun

By Ellen Brenneman

Don't think of him as gone away ~
His journey's just begun
Life holds so many facets
This earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
Can really pass away.

And think of him as living
In the hearts of those he touched…
For noting love is ever lost ~
And he was loved so very much.

18.

18. The Irish Blessing – Sung by RKT, Signed by James Thompson Accapella

THE IRISH BLESSING
Sung by RKT
Interpreted in American Sign Language by James Thompson

May the road rise to meet you
May the winds be ever at your back
And May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rains fall - soft - upon your fields

Until we meet again - until we meet again
May God hold you,
may God hold you in the hallow of His hand.

Until we meet again - until we meet again
May Bless you, May Bless you,
Until we meet - again…

19.

19. Thank You & Invitation to Fellowship

THANK YOU

On behalf of the family
Thank you all for being here today
in person and across the world
to honor the life and legacy of David Allen “Uncie” Thompson.

After our closing hymn
We warmly invite you to join us for fellowship and treats
as we continue celebrating Uncie’s life together.

THANK YOU TO ALL for the love you have shared with my Uncle throughout his life.
For those joining us via livestream

As Uncie would say..

WHO GETS THAT!

And when you care enough to send the very best -
Send YOURSELF.

20.

20. Closing Hymn – How Great Thou Art - Matt Packer Play and Lead All

SLÁINTE TO UNCIE
To his life
To his love
To his everlasting peace

CLOSING HYMN
How Great Thou Art - Matt Packer

21.

21. Final Tribute – Sláinte to Uncie

Danny plays _Scotland the Brave - Bagpipes.