
Allen P. THACKER

ISLE OF WIGHT - Allen Parker Thacker, 80, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, at Sentara CarePlex in Hampton.

Born in Isle of Wight, Dec. 16, 1931, Allen was the son of the late James Allen and Odella Scott Thacker. Allen was a lifelong resident of the county and lived his entire life in the home where he was born.

In addition to his parents, Allen was preceded in death by his wife, Selma Hunter Thacker.

He is survived by his son, Allen H. Thacker and wife, Lori; and daughter, Della Carrico, and husband, Bob, all of Isle of Wight; three grandsons, Brett Thacker, Daniel Boyd, and Taylor Boyd; and a sister, Audrey Huber.

He graduated from Smithfield High School in 1950, then, honorably served his country in the U.S.

Army. He worked at Newport News Shipbuilding for 27 years, as a machinist, then as a piece work counter and welder. After retirement, Allen kept busy with tree cutting, stump grinding, repairing farm equipment, and operating a small archery and gun shop business.

Allen was active in the Moonlight Hunt Club, the Septa Bowmen, and the Virginia Peninsula

Sportsman's Association (VPSA) for many years and was honored as Sportsman of the Year by each of those organizations. He was the longest serving member of the VPSA and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2005. He served on the board for the Virginia State Crime Line, dealing with game and wildlife violations. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association and a lifelong student of the archery and firearms industries. He was instrumental in teaching many people, of all ages, to shoot recreationally and competitively.

Family and friends will gather from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight, Feb. 2, at Colonial Funeral Home. Allen's life will be celebrated at a graveside funeral service at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at Bethany Cemetery, 13717 Bethany Church Road, Smithfield, with the Rev. Lowell Petry officiating.

The family suggests memorial contributions to Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue, P.O. Box 97, Smithfield, VA 23431.

Arrangements are in the care of Colonial Funeral Home, Smithfield, Va. *View and post condolences on our online guestbook at dailypress.com/guestbooks.*

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