

OFFICE OF THE KNOX COUNTY CORONER

THE COUNTY OF KNOX
STATE OF ILLINOIS



MARK A. THOMAS
KNOX COUNTY CORONER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2023

KNOX COUNTY CORONER, MARK A. THOMAS, WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

Serving and caring for the citizens of Knox County has been one of the greatest honors of my life. When I was elected in 2004, I set a goal of developing the office independent as possible from the funeral home where I was employed and eventually purchased. While I was unable to completely separate the two, during my tenure, we have been able to purchase a coroner vehicle used only for the coroner and created a phone line dedicated to the office. Both of these created a separation from the funeral home.

In my 25 years in the office, hired first as a deputy coroner in 1998 by my predecessor, John Watson, and the last 19 years as your Coroner, I have been tasked with the challenge of caring for people during one of the most difficult times of their life. My only hope is their interaction with our office no matter how brief or lengthy was as positive as could be considering the circumstances.

Through the years I have been blessed to meet some amazing people, not only the bereaved families I have walked along with but the emergency personnel I have come to know along the way. The dedication of the volunteer EMS and Fire Services in Knox County is second to none and I have been fortunate to witness that firsthand. Our Galesburg Police Department and Fire Department have been more than an honor to work alongside. Our rural community police departments have always been nothing short of amazing and professional. I thank you all for your service to our county.

While I will miss the people I have worked with as Knox County Coroner, my wife Tricia, and my two sons, Andrew and Luke, have sacrificed much over the years and it is time for me to give more time and attention to them. Tricia and I are looking forward to placing our entire professional focus on our community through our funeral home, Watson Thomas Funeral Home and Crematory.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you, the citizens of Knox County, as your Coroner since 2004. Thank you for entrusting me to care for you all.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Thomas
Knox County Coroner