

ALWAYS IN OUR MEMORY

**ERNEST "ERNIE" LEE THESMAN
(May 5, 1938 – December 30, 2011)**

Ernie Thesman, founder of Thesman Communities, passed away in his home on December 30, 2011, at the age of 73. Ernie founded Thesman Communities in 1980, and together with his son Michael, they grew the company to what it is today, owning and managing 11 communities located in Arizona, Florida, New Mexico and Nevada.



Ernie came from humble beginnings, on a farm in Hood River, Oregon, and he never forgot his roots. A successful entrepreneur himself, he was passionate about helping people attain a life and a lifestyle beyond what they thought possible. He devoted himself to his work; developing affordable resort-style communities where people could live in a home, with friendly neighbors and the finest amenities.

Ernie enjoyed an active lifestyle and was an excellent athlete and gifted dancer. In 1963, he began his entrepreneurial career with dance studios and weight loss clinics. He helped many people (family, friends, employees), reach for a higher level in their personal lives as well. Whether you were the man on the street, or the highest executive, he didn't care where you had been; just where you could go.

Ernie will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, sponsor, and friend. He will be missed very much by many.

Though you may not have known Ernie personally, he has touched your life. His diligence in keeping the communities a place to be proud of is reflected in everything you see and every employee you meet. His legacy will live on through Michael and all the people at Thesman Communities who continue to work hard to make your life and lifestyle the best it can be.