



Thomas Center

ASSOCIATES INC.

www.ThomasCenterAssociates.org • P.O. Box 12752, Gainesville, Florida 32601-9997

MARCH 2025



Major Thomas' grandchildren, Margaret Potect, Kathryn Glenn, Marie Roberts, and John Hawkins visited the Thomas Center to honor the memory of their brother, Tom.

IN MEMORY OF A THOMAS GRANDCHILD

In February, we honored the passing of **Dr. William Thomas Hawkins, Sr.**, grandson of Major William Reuben Thomas. Dr. W.T. Hawkins, a longtime Gainesville resident, was the second oldest of three sons born to Margaret Thomas Hawkins and husband Samuel, who met at the Hotel Thomas in the 1930's. Recently, Margaret's three daughters and youngest son traveled from Fort Worth, Texas to attend the memorial service for their brother Tom. As part of their visit, they toured the Thomas Center with docent Bonnie Lykes. They have many special memories of the hotel as children. John Hawkins recalled his friendship with the bellman, helping to carry bags for incoming guests. The three daughters shared recollections of their mother's wedding veil, an artifact in the Lucille T. Maloney Conference Room. Listening to their memories of wearing this same veil for their own wedding ceremonies was nothing short of magical for those who love and appreciate the family history! New memories combined with past

anecdotes are what make the Historic Thomas Center a community treasure.

THE MORNING ROOM

The visit by Major Thomas' grandchildren sparked an interest in making the Gowan Room reflect more of its original function – the Morning Room. This was where Major Thomas' children ate breakfast and lunch, brought over from the White House Hotel, owned by Major Thomas. We are dedicating any funds given in Dr. Tom Hawkins name to this fund. If you would like to contribute you can scan this QR code or mail a check to Thomas Center Associates, PO Box 12752, Gainesville, FL 32601-9997.



We are most grateful to the Thomas family (pictured above) for designating the Thomas Center Associates as the recipient of donations given in Dr. Hawkins's name.

NEW AND RETIRING TCA BOARD MEMBERS

We are proud to announce the two new additions to our Board of Directors: Pam Lahiff and Chloe Richardson. Pam is also a member of the Duck Pond Neighborhood Association and will help us coordinate with that group. Chloe is the Curator of Collections at the Matheson History Museum and has an impressive background that will be most helpful. We will also welcome back in the fall, returning Board member, Carolyn Turner, when she retires from teaching music in Alachua County schools.



Three of our Board have retired this year to Emeritus status. Gardiner Myers joined the Board in 2009, Clay Kallman in 2011, and Ellyn Radson in 2014. Both Gardiner and Ellyn were past presidents and Clay managed the database. We thank them all for their years of service!

1928 DISPLAY AND ARTIFACTS

We moved the 1928 wall display from the Gowan History Room to the main hallway. We also brought the curio cabinet with 1920's artifacts to the hallway in hopes that more people would be able to enjoy and learn from them.



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Thanks for your support!

THOMAS CENTER ASSOCIATES INC. | 2024 MEMBERSHIP

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