



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Inmate Death at MCFP Springfield**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Friday, October 30, 2020, inmate Ralph Thomas tested positive for COVID-19 and was placed in medical isolation at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (MCFP) Springfield, in Springfield, Missouri. He received daily symptom checks and was assigned to a unit with 24-hour nursing staff where he was evaluated for respiratory distress. On Tuesday, November 10, 2020, he was transferred to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation. On Tuesday, November 17, 2020, Mr. Thomas, who had long-term pre-existing medical conditions, which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by local hospital staff.

Mr. Thomas was an 87-year-old male who was sentenced in the Northern District of Alabama to an 858-month sentence for Bank Robbery, Use and Carrying of a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence, and Escape. He had been in custody at USMCFP Springfield since June 5, 2019.

MCFP Springfield is an administrative security facility that currently houses 835 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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