



William L. "Bill" Thomas Sr

July 7, 1925 - November 12, 2017

Bill Thomas died November 12, 2017 in Tyler. Services with military honors will be held at 2:00 PM Friday, December 15, 2017 in the Dallas\Ft. Worth National Cemetery. Bill was born July 7, 1925 in Paris, Texas to the late Comer and Carrie Thomas. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Peggy Thomas; and daughters, Nikki Williamson and Pamela White.

Bill graduated from Paris High School and attended Paris Junior College until he was called to protect his country in World War II. He served in the Navy Seabees during that engagement. He was in retail sales until he was in his 40's when he completed his degree at East Texas State University. He then found his calling with Tyler Junior College. In 1969, he started the mid-management program. During his tenure with TJC he was an instructor, served as the assistant dean of the evening school, technology counselor, admissions counselor, and recruiter. Upon his retirement in 1990, it was noted that he was "TJC's top salesman." In his final year, he traveled about 18,000 miles visiting 298 high schools telling the TJC story.

Bill is survived by his son Lewis Thomas and wife Toy; grandchildren Matthew Fenwick and wife Amanda, Alexander Thomas, Meredith Gaston and husband Roger, Amy Sproles and husband Clinton; seven great-grandchildren; and friend Jayne Estes.

Memorials may be made to the Tyler Junior College Foundation, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, TX 75711.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC **15**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Dallas\Ft.Worth National Cemetery
2000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX 75211

Tribute Wall



“ *William L. "Bill" Thomas Sr*

October 05, 2023 at 02:48 AM



“ *William L. "Bill" Thomas Sr*

October 05, 2023 at 12:01 AM



“ *Bill will be missed. He was a great friend and a wonderful person. I traveled with him for over 30 years. TJC was honored to have him represent them. He had tremendous influence over many students and their family. I was able to share many great times with him. Some golf, some just stories and sometimes just be with him. Matt and the family we are thinking of you in this difficult time. Dana Ransom*

Dana M Ransom - November 24, 2017 at 11:06 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Bill and his family. I had known Bill from our TJC Days back in the early 1980's. He was always helpful to me and my Respiratory Therapy students during my tenure there. More recently we got reacquainted with some of his medical equipment needs - I enjoyed our visits and his stories of his time during WWII with the Navy in the Pacific. Bill was a joy to be with - He loved and was loved.*

Kevin Hill - November 17, 2017 at 02:40 AM

MD

“ One of our most beloved clients and friends. We always enjoyed seeing him. He was loved by all and will be missed. So sorry for your loss.

Max and Beverly Dow

The Animal Hospital of Lindale

Max E. Dow, DVM - November 16, 2017 at 02:45 PM

CW

“ Mr Thomas was a good man. He will be missed. Prayers for his family



Cindy Williams - November 15, 2017 at 10:25 PM

SB

“ When a person or student needed help, he was always there to see what he could do to help.

Steve B - November 15, 2017 at 05:10 PM

AS

“ Papa was the sweetest , caring man. He was the best grandfather ever. He will be missed by all of his friends and family.

Amy Sproles - November 14, 2017 at 03:39 PM