



## William Eugene Thomas Sr.

May 10, 2019

William (Bill) Eugene Thomas, Sr., passed away at home, Friday, May 10, 2019 at 88 years of age, with his daughter by his side. He was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee; worked for Western Union in Knoxville/Atlanta area for the majority of his career and worked the last 20 years in Atlanta for Concert/British Telecom making many special friends and memories there. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 plus years, his "Darlin' Love", Oritha Fine Thomas; his son, William Eugene (Gene) Thomas, Jr.; parents, William McSwain Thomas and Treva Flanagin Thomas; sisters, Mildred Thomas Zalvis and Barbara Thomas Shell and brother, Jerry Thomas; his father and mother-in-law, Riley Fine and Eula Marshall Fine; his son-in-law Chuck Arnold. Bill is survived by his daughter, Angela Thomas Arnold, granddaughter, Courtney Arnold Richards and her husband Zachary Richards, by grand-niece Lisa Thomas and very beloved nieces and nephews James & Elizabeth St. Clair, Jerry & Mary Thomas, David & Anne Thomas, Rebecca & Kirby Rothenburger, Denise Shell Wilson and Michael Zalvis; Jennifer Thomas, Rebekah Thomas Wood, Jonathan Thomas, Travis Wilson, Brennan Wilson; and by his beloved, adoring cats Pete, Re-Pete and Bonnie. He was a part of the Knoxville High School Hiking Club and hiked all over The Great Smoky Mountains. After graduating from Knoxville High School, class of 1948, he served in the Navy as a Teleman TE2, in the Korean War on the USS AULT 1950-1954 and loved telling stories of his time serving in Tripoli, Libya, on Wheelus AFB in the communications unit. He was a member of St. Marks United Methodist Church of Knoxville for more than 60 years. He found joy in his family, his cats, feeding the wild birds, gardening and genealogy; and anyone who knew him found joy in him. Everybody loved him. Thanks to all his special friend at the S&S Cafeteria. In honor of his great love for animals, and in lieu of flowers, please make donations to Young Williams Animal Center [young-williams.org/donations](http://young-williams.org/donations) 4833, 6400 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919 or Middle Creek Cemetery, Pigeon Forge, 1830 Middle Creek Rd, Sevierville, TN 37862 Family and friends will meet 11:00 AM Wednesday at Middle Creek Cemetery, Pigeon Forge, TN., for graveside service. The family will receive Friends 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel, 6200 Kingston Pike, TN 37919. Online condolences may be sent to [www.rosemortuary.com](http://www.rosemortuary.com).



# Cemetery

---

## Middle Creek United Methodist Church Cemetery

1828 Middle Creek Road  
Pigeon Forge, TN,

# Events

---

**MAY 14** **Receiving of Friends** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

---

Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel  
6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US,  
37919

**MAY 15** **Graveside Service** 11:00AM

---

Middle Creek United Methodist Church Cemetery  
1828 Middle Creek Road, Pigeon Forge, TN, US

# Comments

---



“ A tribute video has been added.



Rose Mortuary - May 14 at 12:48 PM

---



“ 68 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - May 14 at 11:39 AM

---



“ I know Mr Bill will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. The only joy we have is that he's now in the arms of his beloved wife & son and they're all waiting for us to join them when our time comes. It was always fun to visit them when we were neighbors & when you drove by their house, if they were out, you got a wave & a big smile! Praying for Bill's family & many friends who will definitely miss him! Hugs & love to all.



Angie Palko - May 13 at 07:23 PM

---



“ I might not be remembered by the surviving family, but I can share many stories of how Bill and Oritha, (and Mrs. Fine), blessed by family at a very crucial time. I knew them because Gene worked for me at White Stores. We became close friends and he introduced me to his family to seek prayer for my critically ill wife. I can't share here how many ways they held my hands up for what was the most difficult time in my life, but let me share one. We were called by the doctor and told, in order to

receive a life saving kidney transplant, we had to be in Nashville within 5 or 6 hours. By the miracles of God we made it, but during the 9 hours of surgery I sat, head in hands, an alone and terrified 23 year old father whose wife was not promised tomorrow. A hand touched my shoulder, and I raised my head expecting to see the chaplain I had requested. Instead I looked into the tearful but smiling eyes of an angel named Bill Thomas. He reassured me in ways that had worked for no one else, and when my mother, sister and brother in law arrived, he spoke to the nurses about us leaving for awhile, and insisted we all join him for dinner. He took us out, and then stayed with me until doctors came out with the good news that surgery was complete and successful. Even though the outcome was still unclear, I still believe Bill was sent by God to sustain me. He checked on me daily and I regret that I let life keep me from staying in close touch. This was a man who showed the world what a Christian really is. Not by word, but by actions. The world will be a colder place without him, but heaven so much sweeter with him and Oritha there together.

Austin Moore

Austin Moore - May 13 at 01:12 PM

---



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Eugene Thomas Sr..



May 12 at 11:29 AM