



## William A. Thomas

July 15, 1941 - December 24, 2015

Albany- William A. Thomas, 74, passed away December 24, 2015 at Albany Medical Center Hospital surrounded by his family. Born in Rome, NY he was the son of the late William C. and Margaret Fordyce Thomas, and was raised in Prospect, NY. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Patricia A. Della Rocca Thomas in 2005.

Bill is survived by his fiancé Donna M. Conyer; his daughters Bonnie Thomas and Heidi Wilklow (Bob); sister Susan Thomas (Jon); grandchildren Mandy Chamberlain (Shawn), Christopher Bohley (Samantha Schultz), and Schuyler Howland; great grandchildren Amber, Jasmin, Lily, Jadyn, Isabella, Ariana, and Carson; nieces and nephews Robert Marriott, Michaela Kozenewski, Donna Ensign (Bob), Debra McKenna (Ken), Sheelah Malagrida (Dean), Joseph Della Rocca, Jr. (Carol), and Thomas Della Rocca (Jodi); brother in law Joseph Della Rocca (late Marion) and sister in law Anna Della Rocca (late Frederick) and Bonnie Lawyer; special friends Tom and Jane Fox, Paul and Dee Batista, Judy and Phil Wolf, and many other friends and loved ones too numerous to name. In addition to his parents and his wife, Bill was predeceased by his brother Charles Thomas and his grandson Jordan Howland.

Bill was an Insurance Underwriter for Fuller and O'Brien, Inc. in Albany, retiring in 2000. Bill was a member of the WAIBS Bowling League and was a

member of the Firemark Circle of America. Bill loved bowling, fishing and traveling; especially to his most special place, Cape Paradise.

Those wishing to remember Bill in a special way may send contributions to the American Cancer Society, 1 Penny Lane, Latham, NY 12110, or a charity of your choice.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a funeral service in Bill's honor on Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

Interment will immediately follow the service at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands.

There will be no public calling hours.

To leave Bill's family a message on their guestbook, obtain directions, or view other helpful services, please visit [www.mcveighfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcveighfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave  
Menands, NY

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.  
208 N Allen St  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 489-0188  
[info@mcveighfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@mcveighfuneralhome.com)  
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of William A. Thomas*



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**McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.** - December 29, 2015 at 03:11 PM



“ *William A. Thomas*

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October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *We are so missing our dear, dear Bill. Whenever we pass by your Cape Cod house, we will remember all of the teasing, laughs, wonderful food, and wonderful friends. You shared your dear friends Tom and Jane with us; you shared our first grandchild with us; and you never, ever missed a birthday or an anniversary. May you watch over us all with your slight smile knowing all the while that we are just moments behind.*

*Love,  
Your Cape Cod Neighbors and Pals,  
Tommy & Linda xx*

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**linda harrington** - December 29, 2015 at 06:15 PM

JE

“ *Dear Donna and Bill's family:  
It is very hard to grasp Bill's passing since we were together in Philadelphia just a few months ago. He will be missed by all that were fortunate to have known him.*

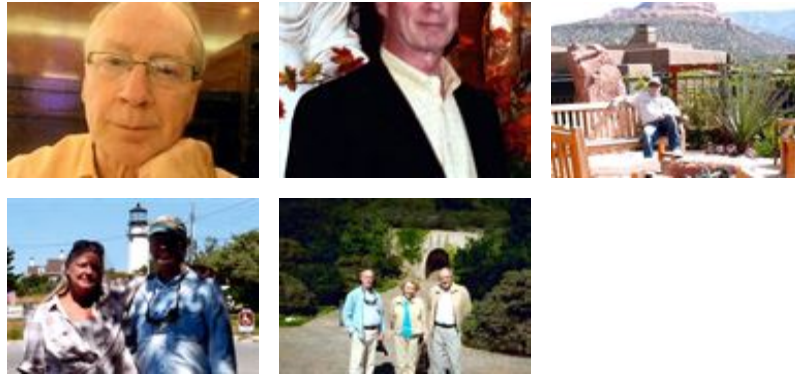
*John Eubank  
Nashville TN*

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**John Eubank** - December 29, 2015 at 03:54 PM

**McVEIGH**  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.  
(518) 489-0188

“ *50 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.** - December 29, 2015 at 03:03 PM

TT

“ Dear Donna and family -

*I have such wonderful memories of working with Bill at Fuller & O'Brien and I was always inspired by his dedication to his family, his knowledge, his work ethic, his kindness and his dedication to his customers.*

*It was an honor to have the good fortune of knowing Bill and working with him. Please know that he and the entire family have been and remain in our thoughts and prayers.*

*With our deepest sympathy -*

*Tom and Leah Tyrrell*

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**Tom Tyrrell** - December 29, 2015 at 08:04 AM



“ *My Grandpa Bill loved his family, loved to fish, and loved life. He always put others first, was never selfish, showed compassion and lived life to the fullest. He was one of the best men I will ever grow to know. If I learned anything from him it would be never expect the expected, always give it your all, never give up, and no matter what gets thrown at you, good or bad, take in strides never ever loose faith or what is most important in your life. We just recently spoke and he joked how he had to catch a bass at least half the size of his great granddaughter's. He always seemed so happy to hear how they loved to fish and pick berries, telling me stories of when he was a boy. My girls will miss him as will we all. I love you grandpa, you will forever be in all our hearts and I thank you for the love you have graciously bestowed upon your grandchildren and great grandchildren, your family and friends. I will forever be grateful for your unconditional love and understanding. May your rest in peace and at the thoughtfulness and love you showed others be in our hearts forever amd always. You will be greatly missed, always loved, and never forgotten.*

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**Mandy Chamberlain** - December 28, 2015 at 09:40 PM



“ *My Grandpa Bill loved his family, loved to fish, and loved life. He always put others first, was never selfish, showed compassion and lived life to the fullest. He was one of the best men I will ever grow to know. If I learned anything from him it would be never expect the expected, always give it your all, never give up, and no matter what gets thrown at you, good or bad, take in strides never ever loose faith or what is most important in your life. We just recently spoke and he joked how he had to catch a bass at least half the size of his great granddaughter's. He always seemed so happy to hear how they loved to fish and pick berries, telling me stories of when he was a boy. My girls will miss him as will we all. I love you grandpa, you will forever be in all our hearts and I thank you for the love you have graciously bestowed upon your grandchildren and great grandchildren, your family and friends. I will forever be grateful for your unconditional love and understanding. May your rest in peace and at the thoughtfulness and love you showed others be in our hearts forever amd always. You will be greatly missed, always loved, and never forgotten.*

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**Mandy Chamberlain** - December 28, 2015 at 09:37 PM



“ *Dear Thomas family. I am very sorry to read of Bill's passing. I'll always remember his big smile and great hugs every time we got together. His great mom, Marnie, was my first cousin. I remember years and years ago family events where he and Charlie were the life of the party and little sister Susan was a real cutie. He was a great cousin and will really be missed Peggy Jones Miller*

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**Peggy Miller** - December 28, 2015 at 11:38 AM

TF

“ Donna and Family,  
What can I add that has not already been said. Bill was a great guy and I enjoyed his company on our annual and semi annual fishing trips over 20 years. He was a great fisherman and always seemed to catch the majority of the big fish. Even though I am not the best of fisherman he always had the patience to help me land a fish. I will miss the dinners we had with him at the Clipper and all the time we spent together. RIP Bill knowing you touched many lives.

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**Terry Fuller** - December 28, 2015 at 10:27 AM

BS

“ Very sorry to hear of Bill's passing . He was a constant childhood friend growing up in Prospect. it looks like he had a great life and had many blessings. RIP old friend and thanks for the memories  
Bob Sylvester

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**Bob Sylvester** - December 28, 2015 at 09:08 AM

SF

“ Donna and family

We where so sorry to hear of your loss. We so enjoyed sitting and talking to the two of you . Bill will be missed but never forgotten. May he fly among the Angels . He loved to travel. Before he would leave he would come over with the gleem in his eyes and tell us to keep an eye on the house. We loved seeing Donna and Bill come into the Brideway to play cards with our family.. Bill, Pat, and Donna have been such great neighbors. Always giving a wave , visit, or a quick Hello. Biill's smile is somthing that we will keep in our memories forever.

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**Sherwin Family** - December 27, 2015 at 08:32 AM

AJ

“ Bill and I grew up together in Prospect, went to Prospect grade school and graduated from H.P.C.S. in 1958. We played fast pitch softball together, he at shortstop and me at second base. We played ice hockey at the skating rink in Prospect along with Ace (Charley) and the other boys our ages (14 to 18). We also played football on the Quarry property behind the Thomas house on Trenton Falls Street and basketball in Hegeman's barn. We did some fishing together on Jenkins Brook and wood-chuck hunting on some of the local farms, though Ace was a much better fisherman than either of us. Bill, the late John Fort and I shared a room on our senior trip to D.C., where we proceeded to get into trouble by heaving water balloons out our hotel window. This is the same trip where Jim Van Brown appropriated a night stick off a D.C. policeman's motorcycle, while Bill, John and I stood watch should the cop return. Bill and I tried our hands at making hard cider and moonshine, not very successfully though. We didn't have the proper equipment. We were in the Boy Scouts together, along with most of the Prospect and Hinckley boys and John Sackler from Remsen. Prospect was a great place to grow up during the '40s and '50s. I think that the last time I saw Bill, where we had a chance to rehash the past was at the Prospect Centennial in 1990 in Prospect Park. I saw him again when his mother passed, but not to really talk to him. Bill had a sunny disposition and was friends with everyone.

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**Alan Jones** - December 26, 2015 at 08:51 PM