



Bill Thomas

April 22, 2016

Billy Ray Thomas “Bill”, 74, died on April 22, 2016. He was born in Oxford, North Carolina but soon became a resident of Newport News, Virginia. He graduated from Denbigh High School, attended Thomas Nelson Community College and the Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School. He was employed by Newport News Shipbuilding from 1961 until his retirement in 2007. Bill received numerous recognition awards from the shipyard and always took pride in the many ships he was privileged to help restore.

Bill was a volunteer at CONTACT, the crisis hotline for the peninsula until its closure. He was a member and officer of the Mariners Club, earning a lifetime membership. After his retirement he enjoyed the company of other Shipyard Retirees by participating and supporting the NNS Retirees Breakfast Club. He always took his responsibilities seriously and even as his health was failing he continued to manage the Breakfast Club’s email list to keep its members informed of meetings and upcoming events.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Claudia; two children, Greg Thomas and Kristi Thomas Irvin and her husband, Todd; two grandchildren, Rachel Irvin and Samantha Irvin. Bill is also survived by his brothers, Jack Thomas and his wife, Vicki, Michael Thomas and his wife, Cathy, and many other devoted family members and friends.

A celebration and remembrance of Bill’s life will be held 10:00 am Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Hilton Christian Church, 100 James River Drive, Newport News with a time of fellowship to follow. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to your favorite charity or to the Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Donations can be made through United Way Donation Code 78501 or CFC Donation Code 6170 or Donations may be mailed to: GVFRS PO Box 1417 Gloucester, VA 23061. On line Memorial Donations can be made at <http://www.gvfrs.org/index.php/donations-and-fund-drive/>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 7. 1:30 PM (ET)

Hilton Christian Church
100 James River Drive Newport News, VA US 2360
Newport News, VA

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Claudia, my heart breaks for your loss. I have fond memories of our time in New Orleans and getting to know Bill "in person" after hearing you talk about him for years. I am here if you need anything, just let me know.

Cindy Miller - April 29, 2016 at 10:07 AM

JC

“ John Kent, Montgomery, AL 3rd Cousin lit a candle in memory of Bill Thomas



John kent, Montgomery, AL 3rd cousin - April 27, 2016 at 09:30 AM