



George W. Thomas, Jr.

October 12, 1921 - October 18, 2019

George W. Thomas, 98, aka Grandpa Texas and Uncle George, passed away on October 18, 2019, after suffering a fall which lead to surgery and hospitalization. George was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, on October 12, 1921, to Jessie Mae Dunman and George W. Thomas, Sr. He was the oldest of 7 siblings and left his home to live on his own in Tulsa, Oklahoma at age 13. There he lived in a tear drop trailer worked at Western Union, threw papers, attended high school and worked at Lawson Hardware. He enlisted in the army in 1940.

George was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas where he served until 1941. He was shipped to Australia and drove car for the Inspector General. When WWII started, he served in the South Pacific, East Indies, Papuan, and New Guinea where he experienced actual combat. He received an honorable discharge on June 9, 1945, receiving the Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, Good Conduct and American Defense Medals along with a Distinguished Unit Badge.

While at Fort Sam Houston, prior to the war, he met the love of his life, Elisabeth Baylor. When he went to war, Elisabeth left to attend Baylor University. Upon his return to San Antonio in 1945, he proposed and married Elisabeth. They had one daughter, Diana, in 1946. George went to work for the San Antonio Transit System in 1945 and left there in 1946 for a job with

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He spent 36 years with the Telephone Company as an installer and business rep until his retirement in 1982.

George loved visiting with people, his affiliation with the WWII Veterans Red Shirts who had monthly breakfasts, looking at new cars, drinking coffee, joy riding and traveling. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers, the VFW, and the American Legion. He was a pet lover feeding a colony of cats, had a small bird "Baby" that he nursed to health after it fell from the nest, and loved his dog Sweetie.

George was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Elisabeth Baylor Thomas, and six siblings of which he was the oldest: Brothers - Cleo, Gerald, Ernest, Francis and Albert Thomas. Sister-Zula Mae Gill. He is survived by his Daughter: Diana Thomas Rooney (Fred), Grandchildren: Randall Smith, Shannon Twining (Mike), Great Grandchildren: Kaitlyn Smith, Thomas Twining, and Cameron Elisabeth Twining of California. Numerous nieces and nephews and Sister in Law, Betty Gotthardt.

Visitation will be Saturday, November 9th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. with the Funeral Service to start at 11:00 a.m. at Mission park Funeral Chapels South followed by interment. A celebration of life will follow at Brooks City Base Embassy Suites.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Interment

NOV 9 (CT)

Mission Burial Park South
1700 SE Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78214
<http://www.missionparks.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of George W. Thomas, Jr. .



November 08, 2019 at 11:11 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of George W. Thomas, Jr. .



November 07, 2019 at 11:58 AM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of George W. Thomas, Jr. .



November 06, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of George W. Thomas, Jr. .



November 04, 2019 at 02:59 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of George W. Thomas, Jr. .



November 02, 2019 at 08:20 PM



“ My Heartfelt Condolences... wish i had gotten the chance to know my Uncle better....

Bonnie Martin - November 02, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ What an incredible honor and privilege it was to call this wonderful gentleman my friend. I only met George six and one-half years ago, but the special times we shared on our Alamo Honor Flight to Washington DC, on our Soaring Valor trip to New Orleans and at our monthly WWII breakfast group will be forever etched in my memory. I am so incredibly grateful that our paths crossed and will never forget his ageless zest for living, his love for and his dedication to friends and his amazing love of country. A real-life American Hero just joined his old Army buddies and I'm sure that those streets of gold are safe and sound with those characters on guard detail. I will dearly miss you my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you Diana. May God Bless you and the family during this difficult time.

Russell Minor - November 01, 2019 at 09:26 PM



Thank you. What a beautiful tribute.

Diana Thomas Rooney - November 01, 2019 at 11:49 PM

GT

“ Mary & I send our most heartfelt condolences to Diana & the rest of George's family on the passing of George. Words are inadequate to say what a good & decent man George was to not only his family but, to all who had the honor & privilege to meet him or be his friend. We believe one of the reasons his generation is referred to as "The Greatest Generation" is because George Thomas was the model. George's smile & "thumbs up" greeting will remain in our hearts forever. He will be missed here on earth but he is celebrating in Heaven with Elisabeth, his family members & old friends. We thank God George was on loan to us on Earth for 98 wonderful years. Diana, there is no better daughter on earth than you. Flying from California to San Antonio, a minimum of once a month, to take your Dad to his Honor Flight Red Shirt Breakfasts was the highlight of his day. May God Bless & keep in Eternal Peace this American Hero!



Glenn & Mary Trottie

Glenn & Mary Trottie - November 01, 2019 at 05:04 PM

JS

“ Joyce, Kay, Lynn, PeeWee, Dee,, and Stella purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of George W. Thomas, Jr. .



Joyce, Kay, Lynn, PeeWee, Dee,, and Stella - November 01, 2019 at 12:58 PM

JT

“ *Jep and I send our heartfelt condolences to all the family. I can't remember one family event without Uncle George. We so appreciated him attending all the holidays, birthday parties especially after Aunt Elisabeth passed away. I know it was hard for him to enjoy participating without her by his side. They both gave so much to our family. We all knew we could count on them participating and supporting the occasion.*



My favorite memory of Uncle George was some years ago. My Mom, Betty Kathryn (Baylor) Gotthardt was working and she met Dad (Bill Gotthardt), George, Elisabeth, my sons, Travis, Bill and myself for lunch. When we walked out to our cars, Mom noticed she had a flat tire. After the flat was changed, Bill and George went to the tire store to get it patched or if necessary but a new tire. Bill went to check on what was taking so long to fix the tire. He was told a full set of new tires were being put on his car purchased by George!

Jep and Linda Tatum - October 30, 2019 at 01:55 AM

DR

Wow! That was my Dad. Usually very generous when it came to family.

Diana Thomas Rooney - October 31, 2019 at 12:44 PM