



## Frank W. Thomas

March 10, 2017

### "It's Been A Wonderful Life"

Frank W. Thomas, 89 of Lancaster, completed his Ultimate Journey on Friday, March 10, 2017 at his residence after a brief illness surrounded by his loving family. Born in Williamsport, PA, he was the son of the late Frank W., Sr. and Beryl Welch Thomas and the loving husband of Roberta Heitzman Thomas. His first wife, Lola Fletcher Thomas with whom he shared 55 years of marriage died on April 28, 2003.

After graduation from Clearfield High School, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving in The Pacific Theatre on the USS John L. Williamson (DE370). Following discharge from the Navy, he attended the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University. He moved to Lancaster in 1948 and began his career in Commercial Art.

Frank owned and operated businesses in the Hager Building, including, Chestnut House, The Bonsai Collection, Baubles & Beads and New Beginnings Gallery. He was an avid supporter of downtown Lancaster, active in establishing First Friday, Lancaster Art Walk and the DID. He was a founder of the Lancaster Bonsai Society and an officer and member of the Potomac Bonsai Society.

The joys of his life included spending time with family and friends, being in

nature, skiing, biking, hiking, traveling, sculpture and bonsai.

In addition to his wife, Roberta, he is survived by two sons: Fletcher, husband of Susan Thomas and Trevor, husband of Sue Thomas both of Lancaster, a grandson, Joshua, husband of Shannon Thomas, and a great grandson, Ethan Thomas, all of Lancaster. Also surviving are three step children. He was preceded in death by his brother, James Thomas.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Frank's Life on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Carr's Restaurant, 50 W. Grant Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

In lieu of flowers, Memorials in Frank's name may be made to Hospice & Community Care, 685 Good Drive, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17603 or the Bonsai Society of Lancaster, c/o Susan Thomas, 821 Dorsea Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Frank W. Thomas*

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October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I am so, so very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Bruce sent me something at the end of last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with you guys. Your father was a GREAT MAN. He was part of a generation of men that the world will never forget. The GREATEST generation. He always had a smile and loved your mom so. He will truly be missed by many. A one in a million amazing man. Miss you guys!*

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**Ron and Annette Reese** - March 22, 2017 at 02:54 PM



“ Dear Fletcher and Trevor,  
My condolences on the death of your dad. I lost touch with him after the last time he moved and wasn't sure what had happened to him. I hope that you have comfort in the love of family and friends, as well as the knowledge that he had a long and fruitful life. I know we didn't see you all very often when we were growing up, but I remember a time when your family visited us in Chicago. Your dad was working on a painting for an advertisement, and I was fascinated at his process of creating a work of art. I also visited your Mom and Dad in 1996 when I was attending a workshop in the area. They showed me around Lancaster, where we visited their gift shop and Bonsai shop. They were both gracious hosts and made me feel very welcome. If you would like to connect, I am on Facebook or you can e-mail me at [glk4570@gmail.com](mailto:glk4570@gmail.com).

Love and Sympathies,  
Your cousin, Gay Kauffman (Carrie's daughter)

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**Gay Kauffman** - March 21, 2017 at 03:38 PM

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Thanks Gay, Where do the years go? Peace be with you.

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**Fletcher Thomas** - March 21, 2017 at 09:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frank W. Thomas.



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March 20, 2017 at 10:13 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frank W. Thomas.*



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March 20, 2017 at 09:59 AM



“ *Frank was a very creative man, that lived life to the fullest! You can find comfort in knowing he had a life well lived!*

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**Julie and Ernie Thompson** - March 20, 2017 at 08:09 AM



“ *I was so sorry to hear of Frank's passing. He was such a wonderful man and a friend to me and Ellen. I enjoyed working for him and Lola when they owned Chestnut House. He really had a passion for life!*

*Konrad Fritz*

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**Konrad Fritz** - March 19, 2017 at 05:04 PM