



Alyce P. Thomas

SEP 29, 1922 - JAN 8, 2014



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Alyce Priscilla (DeWitt) Thomas, wife of “Bill” (William) Glenn Thomas and daughter of Alice Angeline Scott and Harry Gardner DeWitt, passed away on January 8 at the age of 91 at her home in Cadbury at Lewes, DE.

Alyce was born September 29, 1922 in Scranton, PA, the first child of her parents’ new marriage (both parents having children from their previous marriages). Toward the end of the Great Depression, the family moved out to the country in Waverly, PA, where she met and fell in love with her high school sweetheart Bill Thomas.

After graduating from Waverly High School, Bill enlisted in the Navy and Alyce enrolled in the Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing. Her studies were cut short in the middle of her senior year when her mother unexpectedly passed away while sitting in the garden. Alyce returned home to take care of her father and help out with the family.

During the labor shortages caused by World War II, Alyce went to work for Western Electric making piston rings for B-29 bombers and lip microphones, having graduated from Civil Defense School in Clarks Summit, PA and attained classification as First Class Mechanic.

Alyce and Bill were married March 23, 1946 at Asbury Methodist Church in Scranton, PA. Over a 20-year Navy career, they raised a family of four children moving from base to base, then added one more child after retiring from military life and settling in Rockville, MD.

In Rockville, Alyce led Girls Scout Troop 2106 for 6 years and became a certified Backpack Trainer for the Washington Area Council (over her life, Alyce hiked much of the Appalachian Trail, “Old Rag” in the Shenandoah Valley, various trails in Rocky Mountain National Park, part of the Continental Divide in Colorado, and select trails of the Canadian Rockies outside of Banff). In 1969, Alyce became a teacher at Millian Memorial Methodist Pre-School, where she continued to teach for 30 years, finally retiring at the age of 77 (and then only due to failing eye-sight caused by macular degeneration).



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For the last two years, Alyce has been enjoying the retired life at Cadbury at Lewes, a continuing care retirement community just north of Rehoboth Beach, DE.

Alyce was preceded in death by her husband Bill; her daughter “Scotty” (Alyce Scott Thomas) Bishop; her brothers Bob and Selton Stevens, and “Butch” (Harry, Jr.) and Dann DeWitt; and her sister Barbara (DeWitt) Parker. She is survived by her sister Dot (DeWitt) Mackie; children Pat, Tom and wife Linda, David, and Kenneth; and son-in-law Nick Bishop. Alyce also leaves grandchildren David, Daniel, BJ, Joy, Julie, Joshua, Jordan, Jacob, Jeremiah, and Maia, as well as great-grandchildren Emma, Owen, and Gabe.

Services will be held in April, as follows:

Rockville, MD: Thursday April 3 at 2:00 PM at Millian Memorial United Methodist Church followed by a reception.

Waverly, PA: Saturday April 5 (time tbd) at Waverly United Methodist Church followed by interment of ashes at Hickory Grove Cemetery and reception.

Donations can be made to:

Millian Preschool

Millian Memorial Methodist Church

13016 Parkland Drive

Rockville, MD 20853

In memo: In honor of Alyce Thomas

Please sign Mrs. Thomas' online guestbook at this site.

PDF Printable Version



Tribute Wall

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PB

Pam Bent posted:

Dear Thomas Family, Alyce was so special to me and to my family. Many years ago I met her in Wheaton Woods Park when she was there with her Preschool Class. I was new to the neighborhood. She welcomed me to the neighborhood and convinced me to enroll our 3 year son in Millian Preschool. The rest is history. Our three children are grown, but they all went to Millian Prschool because of my meeting with Alyce. Alyce was one of the most beautiful women I've ever known, both inside and out. I loved her dearly. Pam Bent and Family

March 20 at 8:00 PM

DF

Dann Parker & Family posted:

Your love and kindness will always live on in our memory.

January 16 at 8:00 PM

DA

Danny + Deb posted:

When people leave this plane of life who you've loved so much, who have taught you so much, who have always been a role model and a leader, it feels like such a terrible, empty loss. But when you think it through more deeply, it hits you: it's not a "loss" at all. They're still doing what they've always done. They're still showing you the way, making it easier for you when it's your turn to take the journey. Thanks so much for being in our lives, Aunt Alyce. Hope to see you and the rest of our crazy tribe again one of these days!

January 16 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Alyce by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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