



Thomas William Gillespie

SEP 1, 1937 - OCT 6, 2022



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Thomas William Gillespie

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Thomas William Gillespie, age 85 of Lewes, DE, died on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at his home surrounded by family. He was born on September 1, 1937, in Philadelphia, PA, son of the late Henry and Dorothy Gillespie.

Thomas attended Paul Newman High School in Philadelphia. A proud Veteran of the U. S. Navy, aboard the USS Saratoga, the first time it was commissioned on April 14, 1956. Thomas was employed with Septa in Philly for more than 20 years and moved to Blenheim, NJ in 1972. After retiring from Septa, he took a short break before returning to work as a custodian for the Gloucester Township Board of Education for 11 years before retiring to Lewes, Delaware with his wife Rita.

Thomas was a captain for the Lobster New Year's Brigade in 1969 and was involved with the Mummers Organization for many years. He belonged to the American Legion Post 17 and was a commander for a few years and recently moved his membership to post 28.

Thomas was known for his sense of humor and the jokes he liked to play on his unsuspecting victims. A Philadelphian at heart, he never stopped rooting for his beloved Eagles and Phillies. Above all Thomas was a family man; he was a loving father and grandfather who cared for his loved ones until the last day, and he will be greatly missed by them.

In addition to his parents, Thomas was preceded in death by his sweetheart and wife of 50+ years, Rita Gillespie; and his granddaughter, Erin Doyle. He is survived by his children: Louise Lunsford (Al) of Pa., Kathleen Smart of Pa, Rita Platt (Bob) Milford, De, Richard Gusovius (Tina) of Inwood, Wv, Janine Doyle (Stuart) of Gloucester City, NJ; his grandchildren: Wesley Wheeler, John Doyle, Jr., Dennis Platt, Erik Doyle, Elizabeth Gusovius, and Stuart Reckard, Jr; his sisters: Dorothy Longo (Donald) of Egg Harbor, NJ, and Mae Gillespie; his many nieces and nephews; and his loyal canine companion & sidekick, Baby Rosie, the Bichon-Yorkie Poo.



Obituary

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A funeral service will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 3:00 PM, at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, where friends may call beginning at 2:00 PM. Interment will be private.

All who cannot attend in person are invited to join the services via live streaming by visiting the following link: <http://www.parsellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/10699045/LTWebcast>.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

FLORAL NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Events

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Viewing

 **Thursday**, October 13, 2022

 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



Funeral Service

 **Thursday**, October 13, 2022

 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958





Tribute Wall

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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared a **Webcast Video**.



October 8 at 5:49 AM



Steve Bock posted:

You were one of the funniest and friendly people I had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with at Post 17. I will miss you greatly Tom. God Bless you.

October 13 at 6:32 PM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Gillespie family.



October 12 at 2:31 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Gillespie family.



October 12 at 3:51 AM



Patty Kent posted:

Tom will be dear missed. He called the cards for Flip 5 on Sunday's. He always spoke to Joe and I when we visited post 17

October 10 at 2:16 PM



Mae Gillespie Foster sent a virtual gift in honor of Thomas.



October 10 at 11:40 AM



Tribute Wall

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Mae Gillespie Foster lit a candle in honor of Thomas.



October 10 at 11:39 AM



Mae Gillespie Foster posted:

Though you went to be with the family my heart is beyond broken..I wish I could of been with you till the very end..But I will hold my love and memories in my heart forever and always.Love your Little Sister Mae!

October 10 at 11:38 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Gillespie family.



October 9 at 7:08 AM



Art Frampton posted:

First time Judy & I met Tom & Rita at Post 17 we right away knew they were very caring people. Tom was a true Patriot & it was our pleasure to have many great memories of our friend. Rest In Peace 🙏
Art Frampton

October 9 at 2:39 AM



Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared a **Webcast Video**.

October 8 at 5:49 AM



Donnie R Longo Jr October 18 at 4:34 PM
Miss You Uncle Tom!! Your With Aunt Rita & The Angels Now



Claire Gillespie Fisher October 13 at 1:43 PM
Watching as well. Love you! ❤️



Donnie R Longo Jr October 13 at 11:38 AM
Rip Uncle Tom, I'm Watching From Home, Wish I Could Of Been There, Love Ya, Donnie Longo Jr.



Memories only last if you share them

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



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