



Thornton Lewis Lynam

September 4, 1932 - January 15, 2021

Thornton Lewis Lynam, Jr., age 88 of Rehoboth Beach, passed away peacefully on Friday January 15, 2021 at Brandywine Senior Living at Seaside Point, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

Thorny was born September 4, 1932 in Dartmouth Massachusetts and spent his summers at the family's vacation home in Rehoboth Beach. He graduated from Dartmouth High School in 1950 and following his father's footsteps, pursued his higher education as a chemistry major, but soon discovered his passion to become an educator. He attained his bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan in 1955, where he pledged the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. After graduation, he joined the Army and served the next two years in Army Intelligence. Following his time in the military he began his teaching career in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

On June 27, 1959 he married Eleanor Bradley from Federalsburg, Maryland and began a new journey as a family man. With his passion to pursue further education, he attained his master's degree in education at the University of Virginia in 1961 and moved his family to Newark, DE where he taught history and eventually transitioned over as a guidance counselor. In 1968 he became the Vice Principal at Georgetown High School and brought the James H. Groves High School for Adult Education to Sussex County. Helping adults who had strayed from their education became his passion. As principal he grew James H. Groves H.S. from a part-time program into a full-time school, adding vocational programs for all adults to participate in. He retired in 1988 after 36 years of service and was presented with the excellence in Education Administrative Award by the State of Delaware.

Thorny and Elea were also owners of Maryland Gardens Apartments in Rehoboth Beach, as well as the Bell Buoy Motel in Dewey Beach. This brought them both pleasure as well as a plethora of dear friendships over the years. Soon after retirement they spent their winter months at their second home in Florida, where they could enjoy their love of golf year-round. Being the consummate sports fan, Thorny also joined a senior baseball league and became an avid Tampa Bay Lightning fan, attending all their home games.

When he and his wife returned back to Delaware for the warmer months he could not sit still and took a parttime job with the City of Rehoboth Beach working in the Parking Meter Division. He could also be found in his spare time on the course of Kings Creek Country Club where they were founding members. Thorny was also a devoted member of Epworth Methodist Church.

Thorny will always be remembered for his sense of humor, his generosity, integrity, and his ability to kindle friendship the moment you met him.

He was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor Bradley Lynam in 2017, his parents Thornton and Emily Lynam and his son-in-law William C. Emory, Jr.

He is survived by his daughters, Susan Morgan of Hudson, Florida and Jacqueline Emory of Greenwood, DE; three grandchildren, Krista King (Steven) of Milford, DE, Amy Emory of Hurlock, MD and Bradley Bitton (Shannon) of Eagle River, Alaska; and five great grandchildren.

Private graveside services will be held at the Hillcrest Cemetery, Federalsburg, Maryland.

Due to the Covid Pandemic and not being able to celebrate Thorny's Life in a traditional funeral setting a pictorial tribute of memories has been created and is located on his webpage at www.parsellfuneralhomes.com.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Beebe Medical Foundation, 902 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958. Thorny would be most appreciative knowing that contributions in his memory would help give back to the community he loved so much.

Please sign the online guestbook located on the tribute page.

Comments



“ Dear Jackie and family,

We are so sorry for your loss We had so many great summers together in Rehoboth Beach,DE

Will always treasure the laughs and conversations that took place on the front porch

He was one of a kind and am blessed to have known him

Best Regards,

Cindy and Mark

Lauren and Taylor

cindy Woodring - January 23 at 04:27 PM



“ Thorny will be missed - lots of memories to cherish of both him and Auntie El

Sonya - January 22 at 11:33 PM



“ I worked with Mr. Lynam at the Sussex Vocational-Technical School District; I was a secretary in the Guidance Department. He was always so full of fun, with a great sense of humor, and very dedicated to his career as Principal of James H. Groves. He was so much fun at our annual Christmas dinner/dance, and he and Eleanor were the life((s) of the party! He was one of the "good ole boys".

Fondly,
Mary Lou Ewell

Mary Lou Ewell - January 21 at 06:55 PM



“ What a wonderful, kind, funny man your father was! I have worked at Williams Insurance Agency for 49 years and your parents were two of our longest and best clients. I always knew Thorny's voice when I heard him come in the front door and made sure I walked out of my office to greet him. He usually came in with some kind of problem but we did what we could to resolve it. Your Mom was so patient with him when he started to become forgetful and kept apologizing but we still loved him and his sense of humor never wavered. People like your parents are what I miss most about not being in the office anymore. I don't know any of you but I feel your pain. It is especially hard once your second parent moves to heaven. May you find comfort in what I am sure are fabulous memories of such a fun loving man. Rest in peace Thorny and I am glad you are reunited with Eleanor. Much love my friend.
Carol Wright

Carol Wright - January 21 at 05:30 PM



“ I am so sorry I cannot attend the services for your Dad, Jackie and Susan. He was a great guy and I know you will miss him so much. We will all miss him who had the pleasure of knowing him.. I have know him 68 years {when I married into the Lynam family} and we called him "Sonny"----Maybe that was to distinguish him from Dick's brother, Thornie who was named for Uncle Thornton many years before. He was full of fun and laughter up to the very end! My thoughts and prayers are with you all.Love,Anne

Anne Lynam - January 21 at 05:19 PM



“ Susan and Jackie Sorry for your Loss. He will be missed.
Brent, Mackenzie, Jaden

Brent - January 20 at 06:44 PM



“ I neglected to mention in my first memory that my husband, Richard, also worked for Thorny and Eleanor at the Bell Buoy in Dewey Beach and enjoyed that job also. We became close friends and enjoyed the company of both of the Lynam's. Love and Prayers again.

Richard and Loreta Workman - January 19 at 09:42 PM



“ To the family of Thorny, Mr. Lynam was the most wonderful and caring boss that anyone could ever have. I was a secretary for him at James H. Groves H. S. which was housed at Sussex Tech and I loved ever minute of that job because of him. My family is so very sorry for your great loss. Love and Prayers to all.

Loreta Workman and Richard Workman - January 19 at 08:06 PM



“ What a wonderful person Mr.Lynam was.
May God grant you peace at this time.

Thinking of you and yours,
Bonnie McIlvain

Bonnie K McIlvain - January 19 at 07:54 PM



“ Love, Charlene purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Thornton Lewis Lynam.



Love, Charlene - January 19 at 04:05 PM



“ Jackye,
I am so sorry for the loss of your dad, Thorny. I am happy I got to know him when he moved to the memory unit at Brandywine. He and my mother shared the same birthdate, September 4!

You and your family are in my prayers during this time of loss and grief. You were an amazing daughter to him.

Jody

Jody Barbarulo - January 19 at 03:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Slideshow



Parseell Funeral Homes & Crematorium - January 19 at 01:41 PM



“ Thorny and Eleanor were two of the sweetest people I have ever known Always smiling and made me feel special whenever we saw one another. I rejoice in know that they are enjoying a marvelous Heavenly reunion.

Rest in Paradise dear friend.

Sincere condolences to his family and all who knew and loved him.

Randy Huber

Randy Huber - January 23 at 09:11 AM



“ Katie bell care manager, 230 to 1030. I am so sorry to hear about thorny, I loved him and can see him laughing on way down hall , he would always make funny faces when a picture was taken. He was always concerned with other patients. I unfortunately got covid and have not been to work since early decem er, I am sorry I was not able to be there for him and family. I will miss him. He was my patient full time since he moved. May god be with u in this sad time.

Katie bell - January 19 at 09:50 AM



“ I have lost my Hero and Champion. You have joined the ranks of God's angels. I will miss and love you forever. You are the best Daddy a girl could ever wish for.

Susan Lynam Morgan - January 19 at 07:49 AM