



Thomas Joseph Franks

October 2, 1932 - June 19, 2017

Thomas Joseph Franks died Monday, June 19th, at his home surrounded by his family. He was 84.

Thomas was born on October 2nd, 1932, and was a lifelong resident of Great Bend, Pennsylvania. He was the son of the late Donald and Helen Franks, and also predeceased by brothers, Joseph Franks, John "Jack" Franks, Robert Franks; and a sister, Edna Miller. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sandra L. Franks; children, Thomas (Tammy Barnard) Franks, John "Little Jack" (Mary) Franks, and Kimberly (Robert) Lewis; grandchildren, Thomas "TJ" Franks, Hillary Franks, Jackson Franks, Benjamin (Michelle) Barnard, Melissa Barnard, and Emily Barnard, Brittany Franks, Alexandra Franks, and Corey (Cate) Shaw, Dustin (Rachel) Shaw, Mollie Shaw, and Cullen Shaw; a sister, Mary Decker; numerous great grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends and had many fond memories of that time spent over the years.

Thomas grew up during the Great Depression and experienced much during his lifetime. He served in the Navy from 1950 to 1954 and as a Corpsman in Korea, assigned to the 1st Marine Division, FMFPac. He received several honors in service of his country including the United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Two Bronze Stars, National Defense Service Medal, and Fleet Marine Force Combat Insignia. He was an active member of the Great Bend VFW. Following his discharge, he attended East Stroudsburg State Teacher's College receiving a Bachelor's of Science degree in Health

Education in 1958. He began his lifelong career in teaching at Blue Ridge High School in New Milford, PA and concluded it with Windsor High School in Windsor, NY, and retired in 1993.

Thomas was an avid golfer and member of the Blue Ridge Golf League since the 1960s. He and his family were equally fond of his extended, golf family including Mickey Giangrieco, Bill Evans, Carl Derek, Jim O'Neil, and many others. Most predeceased Thomas and they were all sadly missed.

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Mary Pat and Helen of Hospice of the Sacred Heart for their tender hearted care and compassion. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, June 22, 2017 in St. Lawrence Cemetery. There will be no public calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of the Tuttle-Yeisley Funeral Home, Inc., Hallstead, PA. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his memory may be made to the V.F.W. Post #6223, 386 Main Street, Great Bend, PA 18821.

Cemetery Details

St. Lawrence Cemetery

Great Bend, PA 18821

Previous Events

Service

JUN 22. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Lawrence Cemetery
Great Bend, PA 18821

Tribute Wall

JD

“ He was my health teacher at Windsor School.He was a wonderful man.He will be missed.



jackie dickerson - June 25, 2017 at 04:23 PM

KV

“ Mr. Franks was a special man and a wonderful teacher. One of my favorites. I will never forget him or his brother. God bless.



KellyJo VanZandt - June 25, 2017 at 09:33 AM

LT

“ Tom was a good coach and mentor. My sympathies to his family.
Linda Tanner class of '64

linda tanner - June 24, 2017 at 07:16 AM

JD

“ Judy And Gary Dibble lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks



Judy and Gary Dibble - June 23, 2017 at 05:45 AM

JB

“ *he was an awesome person and an awesome teacher he will be greatly missed* ”



Joyce Dilello Baxter - June 22, 2017 at 07:35 PM

 Carol Conklin

“ *Carol Conklin lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks* ”



Carol Conklin - June 22, 2017 at 07:28 PM

BR

“ *Bob & Kathy Ragard lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks* ”



Bob & Kathy Ragard - June 22, 2017 at 10:02 AM

NJ

“ *Nancy Kuehl Jahelka lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks* ”



Nancy Kuehl Jahelka - June 21, 2017 at 08:37 PM



“ *He was one of my favorite teachers at Windsor. May you rest in eternal peace Mr. Franks.*

Yulonda Velez - June 21, 2017 at 08:22 PM



“ *Patti Ryan Meaker lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks*



Patti Ryan Meaker - June 21, 2017 at 07:33 PM



“ *Sabrina Vinal lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks*



Sabrina Vinal - June 21, 2017 at 04:36 PM

SB

“ I had Mr. Franks as my health teacher in 1977 when I was a senior at Windsor. I give Mr Franks a lot of credit because whether he knew it or not, he saved my mom's life. We had finished a topic on drugs and alcohol and we were taking a break to prepare us to be dismissed from his class to the next class. When all of the sudden, he decided to ask us in the class what would we do if someone was having a heart attack and what were the symptoms of someone having a heart attack. That quick wit decision he did save my mom's life because two days after that discussion in that class, my mom suffered a heart attack that would have claimed her if it were for the fact that Mr Franks discussed it with us in class that day. Mom lived eleven more years after that first heart attack but, I always felt Mr Franks was a hero that day because if he hadn't discussed it in class, I nor my sister would have known the signs and what to have done. He and his brother, Bob, were greatly admired as teachers and it was a real privilege for my sister and I both to be their students at Windsor

sue bennett - June 21, 2017 at 11:21 AM



“ My thoughts & prayers go out to Thomas's family. I had Mr. Thomas Franks as my Health Class teacher at Windsor Central High School, Windsor, New York in the early 1970's. He was a wonderful teacher & will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cheryl A. Painter Muller



Cheryl Painter Muller - June 21, 2017 at 10:42 AM



“ Prayers & Hugs to the Frank's families. Jim and I had Tom for Blue Ridge Health. We also enjoyed talking with him. He will be missed. Jim & Mary Lou.

MaryLou Decker - June 21, 2017 at 10:35 AM

DC

“ Mr. Franks was a wonderful teacher at Windsor Central High School. Always a happy face! Class of 78

Diane Colwell - June 21, 2017 at 09:43 AM

MB

“ Marla Bisner lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks



marla bisner - June 21, 2017 at 09:30 AM

MB

“ He was a great teacher when I was in school. Knew his brother too. My condolences. Marla Sturek.

marla bisner - June 21, 2017 at 09:29 AM

JL

“ My condolences to Mr. Franks family and friends. I would like to say that he was the 'Best History Teacher", and a very kind man as I remember. It's not always possible to change lives and encourage others but I know he did just that for many students in the Windsor School District and the trickle down effect is amazing. My youngest is an Eagle Scout who loves History and that's because I had an amazing teacher who shared and inspired me. History is something that we have always enjoyed. Thank you Tom Franks for giving me more than a class. My God take you in his arms...Amen

Joann Lockwood - June 21, 2017 at 09:14 AM

CD

“ Curtis Decker lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks



curtis decker - June 21, 2017 at 08:45 AM

BB

“ Rest in Peace! Job well done! Class of "66" .
Blanche Darrow Birtch



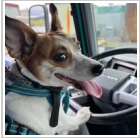
Blanche Birtch - June 21, 2017 at 08:40 AM

KI

“ *A good man and a good family.
Kirk and Barbara Hinkley*



Kirk - June 21, 2017 at 08:25 AM



“ *Deb Decker-Gorton lit a candle in memory of
Thomas Joseph Franks*



Deb Decker-Gorton - June 21, 2017 at 08:10 AM

ED

“ *Ellen Ragard Dorman lit a candle in memory
of Thomas Joseph Franks*



Ellen Ragard Dorman - June 21, 2017 at 08:09 AM



“ *Sherri Pyle lit a candle in memory of Thomas
Joseph Franks*



Sherri Pyle - June 21, 2017 at 07:59 AM

MK

“ *Minnie Keehle lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks*



Minnie Keehle - June 21, 2017 at 07:22 AM

LK

“ *Linda And Raymond Koshinski lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks*



Linda and Raymond Koshinski - June 21, 2017 at 07:13 AM

SP

“ *Sid Peake lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks*



Sid Peake - June 21, 2017 at 06:16 AM

SP

Sad to hear of Tom's passing, he and his brother, Bob, were two of the great teachers to have, back in my time at WCHS. Always enjoyed those times that I was able to catch up with him around Great Bend. Rest well, Tom, thank you for making a difference for so many.

Sid Peake - June 21, 2017 at 06:22 AM

BW

“ Tom Franks was a guiding influence in my quest to become a teacher. Next year I plan to retire after 32 years as a Physical Education / Health Education teacher & coach. I modeled my Health Ed. classroom and teaching style from Mr. Franks. He was a great teacher and an even better friend and role model. RIP dear friend.

Bob Weingartner - June 21, 2017 at 05:54 AM

SM

“ Shawn Morris lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Franks



shawn morris - June 20, 2017 at 11:01 PM

AM

“ Love and prayers to all the family!
My dad, David Hughes will miss Tom very much!
With love, Michael and april Mroz

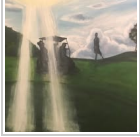
april mroz - June 20, 2017 at 08:40 PM

PK

“ Known Tom all my life a great guy and another big loss to our community. Our prayers and thoughts to his whole family. Pat Collins Kammerer J John



Pat-John Kammerer - June 20, 2017 at 07:25 PM



“ *Cindy Gillespie lit a candle in memory of
Thomas Joseph Franks*



Cindy Gillespie - June 20, 2017 at 11:56 AM



“ *Tommy was a great man and a great teacher.*

Class of '67



Keith Wellman - June 20, 2017 at 11:12 AM