



Henry Grant Thomas, Sr.

January 13, 1918 - January 13, 2013

Henry Grant Thomas, Sr., 95, beloved husband of Beverly Wernick Thomas, died peacefully on January 13, 2013, at his Duncaster home in Bloomfield, CT. Son of Robert C. and Nellie Leibee Thomas, he was born in Kearney, Nebraska on June 5, 1917, attended public schools there and graduated from the University of Nebraska in May 1940. He loved his alma-mater, "The Big Red," where he played varsity basketball; was President of his Senior Class and the Sigma Chi Fraternity; and a member of the senior Class Honorary Society, among many other activities. He began a 42-year career with the Aetna Life Insurance Company in July 1940, joining 18 recruits in the Aetna Group Insurance School. After assignments in Chicago, Springfield, MA and New York City, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Corps in April 1942. He eloped with his Nebraska U. sweetheart Lucile Marie Anderson just prior to being sent to the Aleutian Islands where he served from December 1943-1944 as a B-24 pilot. He and his crew were awarded the Distinguished Cross and Air Medals. Returning to Aetna after the war, the Thomases lived in Houston, Texas from 1947 until 1968, where he became Employee Benefits Manager and later Vice President of the Southwestern Region. He was a trustee of St. John's School, which all five children attended; chairman of Planned Parenthood (Houston Chapter); board member of Houston Committee on Alcoholism; President of Sheltering Arms; Junior Warden of Christ Church Cathedral; and board member of the Texas Episcopal Diocesan Council. Returning to Aetna's home office, he graduated from Harvard's Advanced Management Program and retired after serving as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Employee Benefits Division. Moving to NYC, he was Marketing Director for the Martin E. Segal Employee Benefits Consulting Company. During his many years in Hartford, he served as President of the American School for the Deaf; Chair of the American Red Cross (Hartford Chapter); Corporator for the Hartford Hospital and the Institute for Living; and board member of Planned Parenthood Hartford. He was a member of the Hartford Golf Club – where he beat his age on many an occasion; the Hartford Tennis Club; the Dauntless Club; and the Hartford Club. In addition to his loving wife Beverly, Grant Thomas is survived by his daughters Susan Thomas Hermanson and Nancy Thomas Baker, and by his sons H. Grant Thomas, Jr. and his wife Margot, James A. Thomas and his wife Emmie and Jeffrey S. Thomas and his

wife Vanessa. Also his 14 grandchildren Sarah Hermanson Meister, Leslie Hermanson Lynch, Merril Hermanson, Eliza K. Thomas, Emma Thomas Demeuse, W. Grant, Ellen and James Thomas, Rosemary, Hallie, Mary Stuart and Jacqueline Baker and Amelia and Luke Thomas. Also by stepdaughter Candace G. Krause and her husband James, and stepsons Marc A. Green and wife Sheryl and John A. Green and wife Norma Jean; and nine step-grandchildren Ashley Dorin, Matthew Green, Zachary Green, Samuel Krause, Dashiell Krause, Daniel Green, Deborah Green, Alexandra Green and Charles Green; great-grandchildren Madeline and Lee Meister and Elliott Demeuse; and two step great-grandchildren Elle Dorin and Faye Green. "Pops," as he was lovingly known by all his family, was predeceased by his beloved granddaughter, Virginia Graeme Baker. A special thanks to all of his caretakers at Caleb Hitchcock and Duncaster, and especially to Rosetta Milano for the loving care this past year.

There will be a memorial service Saturday, January 26th at 11 AM at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the H. Grant Thomas scholarship fund of the First Tee of Connecticut, The Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital or the charity of your choice.

For online condolences please visit www.taylorandmodeen.com

Comments



“ Well, my father passed away almost two years ago now. I had asked him on many occasions how he picked my name. He told me that he was solely responsible for picking my first and middle name (Grant Thomas). He told me he went to the University of Nebraska with a friend of his named Grant Thomas. He told me that he was always so impressed with Grant that he could not think of a better name to give me. He said that Grant was one of the best men he'd ever known. My dad was 97, almost 98 when he passed away.

Based on everything I've read in Grant Sr's life and who he was, I'm glad my dad gave me the name. Finding this information today has partially solved a curiosity that I've had for a long time.

I'm sorry for your loss. It sounds like we'll see him again though. Can't wait to meet him.

Warm regards,

Grant Thomas Lightfoot

Grant Thomas Lightfoot - Port Angeles, WA - Friend of my Father's - September 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm trying to get a phone # or email for Grant Thomas Lightfoot. None of H.Grant Thomas' kids knew about this Grant Thomas, and we'd like to get in touch. We didn't know about his college friendship with Grant Lightfoot's dad, or that he had named his son after our father. So Grant T. Lightfoot, if you see this message, please give me a call at 615-424-4423, or email fullhousejt@aol.com. There are two other Grant Thomases in our family that share your namesake - my son Warner Grant Thomas, and my brother H.Grant Thomas Jr.

James Thomas - January 21, 2020 at 09:26 AM



“ I miss him very deeply because he was very kind about coming over and asking me to go to a lot of things. I am very sorry I was unable to attend the funeral in person today.

Mrs. Edward Suisman - Bloomfield, CT - January 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I first met Grant in the summer of 1969 ; i was in Aetna's group school and Grant was moving from Houston to Hartford; He came in to speak to the new class; I looked at him and thought this is what I want to be when I grow up; He never changed warm, gregarious and a great mentor;

I am better because he came into my life.

My thanks to his family for sharing him; God Bless you all

rodger kemp - Chicago, IL - associate - January 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Bev and family...Karen and I send our condolences. I keep my signed copy of his inspiring autobiography "Memories of a Cornhusker" in the bureau beside our bed. He represented the best of the Greatest Generation.

steve schutzer - west hartford, CT - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Grant was a special part of our lives. He will be sorely missed. The holiday gathering will never be the same.

Michael Georgetti - West Hartford, CT - January 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the privilege of being secretary to the Vice President in the Aetna Chicago Regional Office and the additional privilege of greeting all the VP's when they would occasionally gather in Chicago for their meeting. It was an honor to have met Grant Thomas on those occasions. What a kind gentleman. I extend my deepest sympathy to the entire Thomas family. Although he had a long life, it was probably not quite long enough for his precious grandchildren and great-grandchildren. God bless you all.

Ruth Stiemann - Lombard, IL - Aetna friend - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Beverly, Dona and I send our love to and your entire family. Alex and Dona

alex garnett - darien, CT - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Bev, I am very sorry for the loss of your husband. For all of these years, I have known him, I have liked him very much. He was always a very kind man. I will miss him very much. Vivian Piatkowski

Wieslawa Piatkowski - Newington, CT - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bev, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Lois and Jim Dailey

Jim Dailey - Palm Desert, CA - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Beverly, Tom and I send you and all of your and Grant's family our deepest sympathy. We loved and admired Grant so much. We will always treasure our memories of him. It was an honor to have known him, and we will certainly miss him very much. All our love, Pat and Tom

Patricia & Thomas Anathan - Palm Beach Gardens, FL - January 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM