



Richard John Thomas

May 31, 1932 - May 20, 2015

Obituary of Richard Thomas

Richard John Thomas, 82, of Leesburg, FL, passed away on Wednesday, May 20 at home. He was born May 31, 1932 in Rome, NY to John M. and Norma Owen Thomas. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1949-52. He graduated from Utica College in 1955 and taught public school in the Detroit area from 1955-63. He received his Master's degree in American History from Wayne State University in 1962. He then enrolled in the PhD program at Indiana University in 1964, where he met his future wife, Patricia Brown. They were married in 1965. After obtaining the PhD in American History he taught at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, OH. In 1978, he became Dean of Liberal Studies at Alfred State College in Alfred, NY. He also taught courses in sociology and criminology. He retired in 1994, when he and his wife moved to Leesburg. He was an avid reader and loved to travel, which he and his wife did extensively. Genealogy was a primary interest of his and he researched both his and his wife's family trees. He compiled results and spanned several generations. He was a member of the Organization of American Historians and Kinseekers. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Patricia; sons, Craig (Melissa) and Paul (Charisma); seven grandchildren, Matthew, Katie, Taylor, Megan, Caitlin, Lauren, and Catherine. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Norma Thomas and his brother, Roger. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015 at 11:00 am at the Beyers Funeral

Home Chapel. The family will receive friends on Saturday, May 23, 2015 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the funeral home. Memorials may be offered in his name to the Leesburg Public Library Genealogy Research or to Cornerstone Hospice, 2445 Lane Park Rd., Tavares, FL 32788. Online condolences may be left at www.beyersfuneralhome.com. Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home, Leesburg, FL.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard John Thomas*



May 11, 2022 at 07:13 PM



“ *Richard John Thomas*

May 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM