



Thomas Alphonse Keenan

January 13, 1930 - June 22, 2015

Thomas Alphonse Keenan, Lt. Col. USAF (ret), age 85, went to be with the Lord on Monday, June 22nd, 2015.

Tom was born on Jan 13th, 1930 in Dubois, Pa to Donald Thomas and Mary Schalk Keenan. He spent his youth in Bradford, Pa and graduated from St. Bernard High School in 1947. He attended the US Coast Guard Academy, and in 1948, he joined the US Air Force. Following two years as an enlisted man in Washington, DC, he joined the Aviation Cadet program. He was commissioned in 1951 and spent the next 10 years on a SAC combat crew, then 15 years as an aircraft maintenance officer. During his military career, he was stationed in Texas, Oklahoma, Maine, Washington, Louisiana, Vietnam, Germany, Guam, and Michigan.

After “retiring” in 1975, he earned his Business degree and MBA from Louisiana Tech University, then worked as a venture capitalist, ran a business college, managed the county airport in Minden, La, taught flying, maintained seaplanes in Key West, and sold real estate in Boca Raton. After moving to Eastpoint, FL, he served one year as the director of the Florida Seafood Festival in Apalachicola.

In 1988, he married Gloria Jacobs and settled in Bristol, Fl. In 2002, with the assistance of countless others, he began development of the 2ft gauge railroad at Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol. The VMRR has become a regional attraction known for the Halloween and Christmas train rides. He and Gloria also travelled extensively.

He is survived by his wife Gloria, his former wife Inis (Ed) Bultmann of Panama City, Fl, son Tom Allen (Suzanne) Keenan of Fernandina Beach, FL, daughter Kathleen (Nick) Bahadirli of Panama City Beach, FL, three step daughters, Jill (Wilson) Carraway of Thomasville, Ga, Joni (Donnie) Read of Bristol, FL, Jena Willis of Bristol FL, and grandchildren Jeremy, Alex, Evan, Paige, Ryan, Hali, Hunter, Riley, Summer and Jessica.

Tom will be inurned at the Tallahassee National Cemetery at a future date. Bevis Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.bevisfh.com. Family and friends are invited to gather on Sun, June 28th from 2:00 – 4:00 at the Tom Keenan Depot at Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol. Memorial donations may be made to Veterans Memorial Railroad, P.O. Box 399, Bristol, FL 32321. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. 850-643-3636, www.bevisfh.com

Tribute Wall

DL

“ I enjoyed in past years Thomas Keenan and lovely Wife, Gloria at Friend's Gathering including an event hosted by them at their home. Tom surprised me one day with a picnic table he had built which was so welcome at the time where I temporarily lived at a trailer court in Tallahassee. I do pray that his family will find comfort in his meaningful lived to a full measure.

David & Carol Lang - July 01, 2016 at 05:16 PM

PB

“ Dear Gloria, We just heard about Tom's passing. We are very sorry for your loss. I just remember the good times in Texas and Michigan. Please take care and God bless you and the family.
Peter and Susan Bryan Taylor, TX

Peter and Susan Bryan - July 15, 2015 at 10:11 AM



“ I met Mr. Tom a fair few years ago when I started working with the steam team at the railroad, He always had a smile wherever he went and was always willing to try and help out on projects if you got stuck, He built a Wonderful legacy to leave a community that is simply Irreplaceable, He will be greatly missed

J - June 27, 2015 at 11:11 PM

PB

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Phyllis Brown - June 25, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ *We will miss Tom tremendously on the RR. We have truly enjoyed the past 6 or 7 years of helping Tom and all the crew build the railroad to what it is today. Thank you for your service Tom and Rest in Peace.*

Ray & Phyllis Brown

Raymond Brown - June 25, 2015 at 10:46 AM

FV

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*



Fred Veenschoten - June 24, 2015 at 07:13 PM

FV

This is Tom's first firing of the Crown. I came over to help and Tom and Gloria were so gracious in allowing me to stay with them for the weekend. I'll miss Tom; he was an amazing fellow.
Fred Veenschoten

Fred Veenschoten - June 24, 2015 at 07:48 PM

MS

“*Tom will surely be missed by many grateful people. He gave of himself generously to our small community. Like so many others I appreciate his service and the spirit with which he gave it. Condolences to is family and especially to my dear friend Gloria.*

minnie shuler - June 24, 2015 at 09:28 AM

BH

“*It was our pleasure to have known Tom. We have 3 beautiful buildings on our railroad that Tom build for us. We will think of him every time that we pass those stations.*



Bill & Gisela Hays - June 23, 2015 at 06:24 PM