



William Raymond Thon

April 28, 1953 - March 8, 2019

William Raymond Thon, age 65, passed away Thursday at his home in Tallahassee. He was born to Raymond and Beverly (Sweet) Thon on April 28, 1953 in Northbrook, Illinois. When he was four, he moved to Clarence, New York, where he grew up. After attending Genessee Community College in New York, he moved to Tallahassee, Florida, to complete his degree in criminology. Graduating in 1975, he began working at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He then obtained his master's degree in special education. He taught in this field for 32 years. His first job was at Carter Parramore Middle School in Quincy, Florida, where he impacted the lives of his students whom he cared for deeply. He then began teaching at Gretchen Everhart School where he taught for 25 years until his retirement in 2011. He made lifelong friends there. The families he served loved him. He also provided respite care for many families with special needs children in the Tallahassee area. Bill's favorite hobby was going to auctions and estate sales and finding beautiful antiques. His other interests were gardening and camping. He enjoyed sharing his garden's fruit and vegetables with his neighbors.

Bill loved his two children deeply and was very proud of the adults they had become. He was so happy when his first grandchild, Noah, was born this year. He was a kind man and generous to those he loved. Bill is survived by his two children, Benjamin Thon and Catherine (Jonah) Pokipala, and grandson, Noah Pokipala, two sisters, Ruth Filbert and Donna Smith, two nephews,

three nieces, and his ex-wife and friend, Jeanne Thon. He is preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Beverly Thon, and his brother, Russell. A private family service will be held at a later date. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Tribute Wall

CP

“ Dad,

I wish you had not have left us but we will keep your memory alive. Your grandson will know every wonderful thing about you and who you were. I will make you proud.

Love,

Catherine

Catherine Pokipala - March 15, 2019 at 10:43 AM

DS

“ *Bill was a paradox. He was frugal and yet extremely generous. He was quiet and yet spoke clearly. He was strong and independent and yet gentle and soft hearted.*

He cared about other people, and always wanted to help. He wanted to take care of and protect his children most of all. He felt there were lots of ways to show people you love them, besides saying the words. He fixed things, - almost everything.

I loved you, and I miss you already.

Donna

donna smith - March 14, 2019 at 04:29 PM

LS

Mr. Bill

Was one of my teachers from Gretchen Everhart. I was one of his favorite students. My name is. Lea Shields. Mr. Bill Thon was a magnificent incredible teacher offer a role model for me as well as a very best friend of mine. In fact he gave me the nickname princess Leia. Off of Star track. He was one of my favorite teachers of all time. You really taught me a lot through the years. Even though without him realizing it or even a thought he stopped me so much more then anybody could even imagine. Without him knowing it or realizing it he was my guardian angel in a very special angel. He was in incredible teacher very sweet man a caring human being and a very sweet loving caring kind Street incredible amazing wonderful loving person. I love you mr. Thon with all my heart. Thank you for being amazing and incredible teacher are you always were. And it was a very big lesson to be one of your students and Friends. And it was an honor for me to be taught by you. I will love you and miss you always. Thank you for teaching me I Will Remember You always and forever. You will never be forgotten. I promise you. I love you very much and miss you always and forever God bless you thank you with all my heart. I'm your friend and Lumi student Lea Shields. AKA Preserve Leia. Thank you very much for be in my teacher. A student from Gretchen Everhart.

Lea Shields - November 17, 2020 at 10:49 PM

MA

“ *I will miss my friend Bill and our bicycle rides to the waterfront park in St. Pete.*

Mark

mark - March 14, 2019 at 10:48 AM

SB

“ Some people come into your life and touch your heart with their gentle ways. Bill was a neighbor of mine in Kenwood. We discovered we both shared a passion for gardening and I learned several tips from him. He was humble and gentle and soft spoken. Always willing to lend a hand, several times I would ask him to cross the street to hold the ladder for me while I trimmed shrubs and I would end up holding the ladder as he insisted on doing the trimming for me. Many times he would just come over to talk. My little dog Sadie loved to curl up in his lap. I felt blessed to have a friend comfortable enough to share feelings and concerns with. Sometimes you just need someone to listen . We were there for each other. That’s what friends are for. I know that he loved his children very much and was so proud of the adults they had become. The idea of being closer to his daughter and soon to be grandchild , was the main reason he gave for moving back to Tallahassee . Believe me, his neighbors here all wanted him to stay as he was such a positive warm addition to our little neighborhood. He kept us all supplied with a healthy dose of collard greens and a helping hand. When walking around the neighborhood, Bill loved all the animals, but especially the cats, and they loved him. Because of his love of cats, I am making a donation in his name to Friends of Strays Animal Shelter here in St Petersburg. Thank you Bill for blessing me with your friendship. Miss you Bill. Love you Bill. I’ve been touched by an Angel. Rest In Peace

Sharon Bonner - March 14, 2019 at 09:21 AM

SB

“ *Bill’s Family,*
Thank you for the wonderful picture on this site. We taught together for a short time at Everhart. When I heard the news, I was taken with how, so long ago, he touched my life. To all who spent his life with him I know you will feel his absence. Hoping the happy stories and laughter begins soon. Susan Brosnan-Maddox

Susan Brosnan-Maddox - March 14, 2019 at 06:59 AM

JS

I am so sorry for your lost. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God wrap His loving and comforting arms around your family. Time heals. You will see him again.

Judy Steed - March 14, 2019 at 12:29 PM