



Shirley Lorraine Thomas

March 6, 1952 - October 31, 2020

Shirley Lorraine Thomas was born on March 6, 1952 to the late Lewis E. Thomas and Doris L. Pickford Thomas. Shirley was the eldest of eight children to this union. Upon graduation from high school and college, Shirley went on to serve in the U.S. Military serving in the Air Force, US Navy (most of her career) and completing her service in the US Army in Iraq. In her tenure she also served in Bahrain, Germany among other places and retired as a decorated Lieutenant Colonel receiving numerous medals and awards for her dedication and service.

Shirley was also an Educator with the Department of Defense and enjoyed teaching. Shirley was passionate about cooking and golfing so she took classes in both and excelled at them. She was a perfectionist in her baking skills and if you had the pleasure of tasting her cooking you always made yourself available as her taster. A huge feast with family was always extra special. Shirley travelled the world, sharing art work, customs and traditions with her family and friends. The world for Shirley was one to be explored and enjoyed making friends everywhere and anyone would tell you the kindness she displayed with ease. She loved football, cheering for her brother who played in the NFL and her California teams. One of Shirley's favorite past times was watching Turner Classic movies, the dramas of Perry Mason and Matlock.

Shirley maintained a strong faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and leaned on His divine guidance for direction in her life.

She is survived by sisters Martha Manning of Florida, Rosalin Thomas, Maria Thomas, Pamela Tuddle (Luther) of California, and Patricia Keys (Lee) of Georgia; her brothers Lewis Thomas of California, Greggory Thomas of Georgia and Eric Thomas of Ohio. She also has a host of loving nieces and nephews who adored her.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Shirley's memory to The Annapolis Veteran Center, location/donation 235, by visiting <http://www.va.gov>.

Services at Arlington National Cemetery to be announced.

Comments



“ Shirley and I were neighbors in Millersville, MD. I will always remember her as having a kind word to everyone and her bright smile. I loved hearing about the places she worked while serving our country, I thank you for your service. I will always cherish our friendship and the many good times we had sitting outside laughing and drinking ice tea or wine while trying to solve the worlds problems(ha ha). It will not be the same to be watering my plants and not seeing you outside doing the same and not talk about our day or my grandson and what he is up to. As I think of you always and miss you dearly, I know you are at peace with our Lord.

Your friend, Joann L.

Joann Lattanzio - February 04 at 03:32 PM



“ My dearest Auntie Shirley, your place in my heart will never change! I think about you every day!! Your love and devotion to family is something that we strive to mimic and even improve upon!! You taught us traditions that we carry every day with every season!! Your strength, your drive and ambition is what I admire the most!! Your STRENGTH!!! I love and miss you soooooooo much Auntie!! You made such a great impression on my kids that they will cherish forever!! I am very grateful and blessed to have you as my AUNTIE!! As the tears run down my face, I'm trying not to be sad. I know that God has you now and that alone makes me smile! I will carry your love in my heart FOREVER!!! Till we meet again Auntie!! I LOVE YOU!!!

Cynthia Wilson - February 04 at 10:33 AM



“ Dear Sister. I truly miss your presence. Everyday is a challenge for me but I keep moving because of your strength. Every tear I shed expresses the love that you have shown me. I thank God for the precious time that He blessed me with to truly bond us together forever. Your complete generosity and love that you showed me will forever fill my spirit. Thank you for loving and extending that love to my children...and their children. When I speak to them about you, they all have a story to share about your kindness to them. The life lessons that you taught each of them individually. The plans they all had with you in anticipation of your next visit, or phone call, to share their accomplishments. You my dear sister have touched all of us and losing you is a great loss. If you could still be here with us we know you would with bells on. You my dear are missed. We love you, we honor your memory. We know you are in the arms of our Heavenly Father. Rest in Peace. I love you forever. Until we meet again. All my love Shirley.

Maria Thomas (Shirley's Sister) - February 03 at 02:19 AM



“ I worked with Shirley at Baumholder Middle/High School, and we all enjoyed her delicious cooking! We also traveled and enjoyed dinners, conversation, and laughter. Rest in Peace, Shirley.

Angela Brown-Bessau - December 16, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ Shirley and I taught together in Baumholder German for several years. Shirley & I enjoyed the wine fest, dancing concerts and many holiday dinners at her home. She often spoiled her friends at school with fresh muffins placed in our staff mail boxes.

Dovie Jones - December 15, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ Shirley and I met as neighbors in our community in Millersville and spent time together almost daily. We cooked and watched football together (always rooting for opposing teams) but what fun we had. We gardened and shared stories galore and laughed robustly. She loved my family and they loved her, Shirley was not a fair weathered friend , she was a true friend. I miss her smile and going to good restaurants together. Her faith was very strong and I know she is by her saviors side. Rest In Peace my kind and generous friend.

jaime iatesta - December 15, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ 27 files added to the album Thomas family album



Thomas Family - December 08, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ Family, please know that my prayers are constantly with you guys.

Many will never know just how close Shirley and I were.

I REALLY MISS MY FRIEND.

Cousin AL

Alonzo - December 16, 2020 at 05:59 PM



“ Thank you for taking care of my Auntie!!

Cynthia Wilson - February 04 at 10:35 AM