

Travers, Thomas W.

As we look forward to spring, we say goodbye to our beloved father, Thomas W. Travers, who passed quietly at home in Unionville, VA surrounded by his daughters and two of his grandchildren on February 22, 2015. Tom was an avid outdoorsman who loved to camp, boat, hunt and fish with his children and grandchildren. If nothing else, Tom was a jokester and true to his Irish heritage, he could (and often did) spin a long yarn. Storytelling and flirting with that classic Irish sparkle in his eyes were his legacy and what endeared him to so many old and new friends.

Tom was a "jack of all trades." He could build or fix anything. His career was as varied as his talents. His tinkering with mechanics and cars as a teenager in the '50's led him to become a mechanic when he enlisted in the Army after graduating in 1959 from Little Flower Catholic High School in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. He quickly learned to troubleshoot and repair heavy equipment and fabricate - skills that he drew on throughout his life and career. His love for repairing and fabricating led him to proudly serve as a Seabee in the Naval Reserves for 9 years and attracted him to his longest career working as a fabricator for Family Radio Stations, Inc., a Christian Broadcasting shortwave radio network that broadcast to South America from his town of Okeechobee in South Florida.

His children grew up with his love for the outdoors and mechanical aptitude. Growing up, their yard was usually filled with neighborhood children, that, it often turned out, were there to follow Tom around and learn to tinker. He collected bits of scrap metal, engines and parts and much to the dismay of the neighbors (and his family), his yard became like a giant erector set, a mess to those who passed by, but a fascinating place for a young, imaginative inventor. So, even after they moved on and came back to visit, his children would find that yet another youngster was following Tom around, handing him tools, learning to work on cars or build things and asking a million "why" questions, which he answered with endless patience. His love for outdoors, mechanical abilities, sense of humor and storytelling are strong traits carried on by his children and grandchildren.

Tom was preceded in his journey by his parents, Anna & Lawrence Travers and his brother Richard all of Lansdale, PA, and his beloved dog, Blackie. He leaves many who will miss him, including his sister, Mary Ann Reed of Elmhurst, IL; four children, Terry Connell and Bonnie Schmeider in Orange, VA, Pat Travers in Okeechobee, FL and Aaron Travers in McMinnville, TN; nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and countless friends he made along the way. His twinkly eyed humor and stories will be well remembered by all.

Viewing for Tom Travers will begin with a 10 a.m. on Friday, March 6th at the Orange Baptist Church, 123 West Main Street, Orange, VA 22960. The Service will begin at 11 a.m. Internment is planned for the Culpeper National Cemetery at 12:45 p.m. with a reception immediately following at the Orange Baptist Church.



Memorial contributions are welcome and should be made to the Orange Baptist Church Capital Fund to support a new church and community programs that Dad was proud to be part of as a member of this congregation.

Funeral arrangements are lovingly provided by Tom's dear friend, Mr. Wayne Satchell, Satchell Funeral Service, Inc., 118 E Church Street, Orange, VA 22960.

Mary Ann Reed

"If you want peace, work for justice." (Pope Paul VI)