



Richard Joseph Thomas

November 29, 1928 - February 18, 2024

Richard Joseph Thomas, of Cary NC, died on February 18, 2024 at the age of 95. A funeral service will be held at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 804 High House Rd, Cary, NC 27513 on February 23, 2024. Prior to the funeral service, a visitation will be held from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Mass will begin at 11:00 AM, after which interment will occur at the on-site Columbarium. Lunch will be served following the interment.

Richard was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA. son of the late William and Imelda Thomas. Preceding him in death was his wife of 66 years, Margaret, and brothers, William and John. Surviving him are his daughters Mary Lou, her husband, Michael Weller of Ahoskie NC, and Barbara, her husband Wayne Clayton, of Zebulon NC, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Richard earned his Bachelor's Degree at the Pennsylvania State University, his Master's Degree at North Carolina State University and Doctorate at Duke University. In 1957, after a short stint working in the private sector, he joined the faculty at North Carolina State University. His long career there included teaching of graduate and undergraduate courses as well as work in both applied and basic research. He was appointed Head of the Department of Wood and Paper Science in 1978 and held this position until his retirement in 1994. His involvement with Professional Societies led to his serving as President of the Society of Wood Science and Technology (1981) and the Forest Products Society (1985). In 1963 he was awarded a National Science Foundation Science Faculty Fellowship for study at Duke University. Also, Richard was active in the Community and his Church, serving on and leading numerous Committees.

His Military service included two tours, (1946-1948. 1952-1954), with the United States Marine Corps.

Close to the end of his life, he was asked - How have these 95 years been? He answered - Wonderful. Great Wife! Great Family! Great Life!

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Searstone Endowment. Mail any contribution to the Business Office, Searstone Retirement Community, 17001 Searstone Drive, Cary, NC 27513.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Michael The Archangel Catholic Church Columbarium
804 High House Rd
Cary, NC 27513

Funeral Mass

FEB **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Michael The Archangel Catholic Church Columbarium
804 High House Rd
Cary, NC 27513

Tribute Wall

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“ While I did not have the pleasure of meeting Richard, I do have the pleasure of knowing his grandson, Richard. We wish to extend our deepest condolences to the entire family, and we are lifting you up during this difficult time.

Karla and Brent Skinner - February 23, 2024 at 10:30 AM