

Allen Lee Thomas
Written by his wife Brenda Crocker Thomas
102 Ringneck Court
Gibsonia, PA 15044
crockerbl@upmc.edu
(724) 449-7513



Angels brought Allen to earth January 18th, 1959. Angels took Allen home July 29th, 2004.

Up until two weeks before the angels came, you would never have known that Allen had an illness. He fought this disease like a true warrior for over six years. The end came quickly, we were blessed, GOD was merciful.

Allen worked most of his life as a Glazing Contractor. He leaves this world a much better place with many beautiful buildings located all over the eastern coast of the United States. Allen was a hard working man, up at 5:00am and on the job site preparing the plans for the day and coffee for his men.

After our diagnosis of anaplastic astrocytoma July 18th, 1998, Allen returned to school and received his degree in Architectural Drafting graduating with a 4.0. He applied his new skills and designed many wonderful structures.

Allen loved to travel. We took many trips to Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Hawaii and many treks all over the United States. He loved to meet new people and would talk with them for hours. He wouldn't let a foreign language stop him from communicating; he would amaze me by carrying on full conversations with folks by using hand motions and facial expressions. He was the type of guy who would fill a room as soon as he entered it. He had a wonderful booming voice and laugh that drew people to him. He quickly made friends of everyone he met.

Allen loved his work, football, music, hiking, his cabin in Elk County, our golden retrievers, his trucks, barbeque ribs, our church and first and foremost his family. I am proud to have been Allen's wife for 20 years and honored to have been blessed with the opportunity to love him and care for him.

To quote our beloved doctor and friend David Schiff, "I knew your husband to be a warm, open man with a marvelous zest for life and sense of humor. I still remember him proudly relating the grades he got in his drafting courses, and the joy he displayed in talking about upcoming vacations. He really lived his life to the fullest, and serves as an example to all of us". The University of Virginia Health System, Division of Neuro-Oncology is now blessed to have Dr. David Schiff working hard at their organization. Allen made such an impression on Dr. David Schiff that he remembers him so well, even though he had not treated Allen for over 2 years. This is the impression that Allen had on all who were fortunate enough to have known him. Indeed, Allen had a true zest for life and yes we should all follow his example.

Allen was always concerned about how folks without insurance could afford treatments. He was heartbroken when I would tell him of families losing everything due to medical bills from the expensive treatments. In his memory, I have vowed to start a fund to help these folks. His fund is named "The Allen Thomas Brain Tumor Research and Patient Assistance Fund" at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. I have also opened a foundation in his name entitled "The Allen L Thomas Brain Tumor Foundation". This foundation gives me flexibility in helping all cancer victims and families with day to day living expenses and scholarships for the children. I am working on many fundraisers to benefit his causes. My goal is to prevent other families from losing everything due to the treatment costs for their loved ones. This is Allen's hopes and prayers for all. I also want to help the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute attract and retain talented and dedicated scientists like Dr. David Schiff. Allen's endowed fund will help in this endeavor as well.

Yes, Allen leaves this world a much better place. Not only with his beautiful buildings but also with his friendships, his memories, his love.

"He fought the good fight, he finished the race, he kept the faith".