



## Alan Eugene Thomas

March 4, 1926 - November 24, 2016

Alan E. Thomas, 90, died peacefully at home Thanksgiving night.

Alan was honored by his peers as a 16-year-old in the North Fulton high school yearbook as "Most Gentlemanly," and he lived his life exemplifying that, putting others first and service above self.

He learned early the value of hard work, delivering the old Atlanta Georgian newspaper on his paper route in Peachtree Hills and bagging groceries at the Buckhead Piggly Wiggly.

At 16 he entered Georgia Tech but interrupted his schooling to enlist in the Army Air Force during World War II. Returning from the service, he went back to Georgia Tech to earn his degree in Industrial Engineering. A member of the honor society Phi Eta Sigma and Tau Beta Pi, he was one of nine co-founders of Alpha Pi Mu, the national honor society for Industrial Engineering students. A member of Sigma Chi fraternity, he graduated from Tech in 1949 and joined Southern Bell for a forty-year career ending as executive vice president of PR/Public Affairs/Regulatory and serving on the Southern Bell Board. Along the way he became a Sloan Fellow and earned his master's at MIT, ran the United Way campaign in Charlotte, North Carolina, and served on the board of First Union Bank and the National Exchange Carriers Association.

In 1966 he married Diane Klyce from Sardis, Mississippi, and they had two

sons.

Self-taught in both golf and piano, Alan excelled at both. He loved the gentle slopes of Capital City Club, where he was a lifetime member. He had a special passion for his dogs, vanilla ice cream, Coca-Cola, mowing his pastures, and The Fabulous Fox Theatre, where he served as president and chairman of Atlanta Landmarks for two decades. His love for animals never shined brighter than when Alan and Diane hosted the German equestrian team at their farm during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

From the age of seven, Alan was a member of the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta and in recent years a communicant at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newnan, where he and his wife lived in retirement on the farm that "owned them."

Alan was preceded in death by his parents John and Bertha Thomas, his dynamic twin, Carol Thomas Shipp and his beloved brother, John Boyd Thomas Jr.

He is survived by his wife of 50 plus years, Diane, and their sons, Alan Eugene Thomas Jr. (Anne) of Hoby, England, and Stephen Klyce Thomas (Maureen) of Atlanta, Ga., his sister-in-law, Mildred Thomas, his nephew John B. Thomas III, his niece Carol Vikki Thomas and his 5 grandchildren, Sam, Lucy, Ella, Rowan and Klyce, who could always depend on Big A/Granddaddy for an ice cream cone.

The graveside service is Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 2 p.m. at Westview Cemetery, 1680 Westview Drive SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Fox Theatre Institute, 660 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308 or to the charity of your choice.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## Westview Cemetery

1680 Westview Drive SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV **29**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Graveside Westview Cemetery  
1680 Westview Drive SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I so appreciate what a good customer Mr. Alan has been of Morgan Jewelers. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Jeff Morgan - November 30, 2016 at 05:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Alan Eugene Thomas.



November 28, 2016 at 10:39 PM

TT

“ The Board of Directors & Staff of the Fox Theatre purchased the The Endless Sky Spray for the family of Alan Eugene Thomas.



The Board of Directors & Staff of the Fox Theatre - November 28, 2016 at 10:52 AM

NW

“ Alan was a wonderful Christian man. I so enjoyed talking and learning from him. I pray for strength for his wife and family. I will miss his quiet demeanor and sage wisdom. Thank you Alan for giving me another special Angel for my heart.

nancy ward - November 28, 2016 at 07:07 AM

JK

*I'm so sorry for your loss. I hope it will give you some comfort to think of Alan soaring with God. Alan will be missed.*

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**Joan Kelley** - November 29, 2016 at 12:12 AM

MR

“*Diane and Family, I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Alan's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all! Mr Alan was such a dear sweet man. I have so many fond memories him and of the farm. While working there, he taught me so much about the tractors and trusted me with them! Our little current affair chats we would have when he would stop by the barn with the dogs. When I go to the Fox Theatre, I always think of him. The love that he showed my boys when they would come out and help me. There are so many things I could say. I'm truly honored to have known him and thank the Lord for him. May God wrap his comforting arms around you all. Love Mandy*

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**Mandy R** - November 27, 2016 at 02:29 PM

MF

“*Alan loved their farm. He walked with their dogs, bush hogged the pastures, planted trees and there was always a treat in his pocket for the horses. There wasn't a horse on the farm that wouldn't come to the fence when they saw Alan. He always had a kind word, softly spoken and truly epitomized the southern gentleman. My thoughts and prayers are with Diane and her family.*

*Mindy*

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**Mindy Friesen** - November 27, 2016 at 10:34 AM