



Thomas Wayne Arthur

February 15, 1939 - November 22, 2020

Thomas Wayne Arthur, 81, of 1460 Dodson Rd, Blairs VA went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at Sovah Health after being in declining health for the last few months.

Thomas was born in Danville, VA on February 15, 1939, son of the late James Thomas Arthur and Alice Blanch Rakes Arthur. Thomas proudly served his country in the United States Air Force and obtained rank of Captain. He went on to receive two Bachelors of Science Degrees, one in engineering and the other in mechanical engineering and then went on to get his Masters in engineering all at Virginia Tech. After college, Thomas owned and operated Danville Communication Center. He had previously owned, Piedmont Fire and Security and Danville Telephone Services.

Thomas was an active member of the community, he was a member of the German Club, VA Tobacco Commission, Danville Golf Club, and he was chairman of the Pittsylvania County Republican Committee for over 19 years. He attended West Main Baptist Church.

On June 15, 1991 he married Brenda Sledd Arthur who survives of the residence.

In addition to his wife, Thomas is survived by daughter, Mary Elizabeth Arthur Hill of Danville, VA; son, James Penn Arthur and wife Jenny of Catawba, VA; and granddaughter, Rachel Marie Hylton of Danville, VA.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Mary Lee Penn Arthur; a sister, Wanda Marie Arthur Brooks; and brother, William Thomas Conner.

Funeral services will be conducted on Friday, November 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel with the Reverend Wade Rowland officiating. Interment will follow the service in Highland Burial Park with military honors conducted by the United States Air Force and the American Legion Dan River Post 1097.

The family will receive friends prior to the service from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home and at other times the family will be at the residence, 1460 Dodson Rd, Blairs VA 24527.

Memorial donations can be made to Blairs Vol. Fire Dept at PO Box 242 Blairs VA 24527.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is respectfully serving the Arthur family.

Cemetery

Highland Burial Park
3049 North Main Street
Danville, VA,

Events

NOV 27 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel
5858 Riverside Drive, Danville, VA, US, 24541

NOV 27 Funeral Service 11:00AM

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel
5858 Riverside Drive, Danville, VA, US, 24541

Comments



“ Our prayers and thoughts are with Brenda and her family! Tom will be with you always, Brenda, whether on the golf course with you or in the memory of dancing to beach music. He will NEVER be forgotten. We have so many FOND and LOVING memories.

The O'Briens



Patty and Mike - November 25, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ Thank you Patty and Mike. Your friendship meant the world to dad.

James - December 01, 2020 at 09:01 AM



“ We definitely had some wonderful times together. Thank you Chatham Hall and HMA for bringing us

Brenda Arthur - December 22, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing and wanted Brenda and Family to know you will be in our prayers.

Les and Sheri Chaney



Les Chaney - November 24, 2020 at 11:10 PM



“ Les and Sheri, thank you so much. Very appreciated.

James - December 01, 2020 at 09:02 AM



“ Thank you, Les and Sheri.

Brenda Arthur - December 22, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ Mary Beth and Penn,
I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad. We go way back when I was just a teenager working at the answering service. We had a lot of fun times at the farm, riding, showing horses, and just hanging out at the barn. In the early days I remember your Dad would come to the shows to help get Nicely ready to hit the ring. Memories are such a great thing to have. Love you both.
Susan Faw



Susan Faw - November 24, 2020 at 09:45 AM



“ Thank you Susan, the thoughts are much appreciated. "Quite Nicely" brings back a lot of memories of mom and dad's work with the horses. Thank you so much for the thoughts.
James - December 01, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I have such fun memories of going in the Main Street Coffee Emporium downtown and seeing Tom along with the rest of the "Liars Club" gathered around the front table solving all the world's problems. Occasionally, Brenda would join them to keep them somewhat honest. Those were good times! I know he will be missed. My sincerest condolences to his family.

Lizbeth Sater - November 24, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ Thank you Lizbeth, I know dad would greatly appreciate you remembering his group of coffee buddies, and him. Thank you for the thoughts. Much appreciated.
James - December 01, 2020 at 09:04 AM



“ Thanks, Liz!! Tom and his coffee buddies had a lot of interesting "discussions" at that table in the window!! He had missed not being able to go the last several weeks.
Brenda Arthur - December 22, 2020 at 05:45 PM



“ I went to school with Penn at Sutherlin. Sorry to hear of your father's passing. I'll keep the family in my thoughts and prayers.



Johnie Joyce - November 24, 2020 at 04:41 AM



“ Thank you Johnie. I really appreciate it man. Thanks for remembering dad. We'll miss him.

James - December 01, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ Mary Beth, so sorry to hear of your father's passing. Miss seeing you both since my retirement. May God bless you and your family.

Leon Ramsey - November 23, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ Thank you Leon. Dad would really appreciate the thoughts. Thanks again.

James - December 01, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas Wayne Arthur.



November 23, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ Praying for the Family of Tom. He led a legacy many only dream of. Rest Easy!



Jonathan Tilley - November 23, 2020 at 02:10 PM



“ Thank you Jonathan. Very much appreciate the thoughts and memory of dad.

James - December 01, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ Thank you, Jonathan. You're absolutely right

Brenda Arthur - December 22, 2020 at 05:48 PM



“ Brenda and Mary Beth, your husband and your dad and I go back so far, and memories are so precious!

We were laughing about his disappearing on Thurs evenings and him keeping his piano practice a secret ! Said it was easier than putting up with all that his buddies would put out.

And I remember Mrs Arthur doing the wedding for Linda and me , only 58 years ago when I was a brand new Ensign in the Navy.

And then, there were the golf outings and class get meetings and the the smaller meetings for the boys of '57.

All so very special and for a very special good friend,
I will miss you, Brother...

Rad Satterfield

Rad Satterfield - November 23, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ Mr. Satterfield, thank you so much for your thoughts and memory of dad. I know I don't have to tell you how much he valued knowing you his entire life. Thanks again.

James - December 01, 2020 at 09:07 AM



“ Rad, Tom loved hanging out with you, Lawrence and the rest of the Class of '57!! He always came home with a good story after golfing with you guys, too!! Keep in touch!

Brenda Arthur - December 22, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ It is with a heavy broken heart that I tell you of the passing of my father, Thomas W. Arthur, 81.

My dad was a remarkable man, with a lifetime of accomplishments that are more numerous than I can barely all remember, as they all flood back into my mind today, and I marvel at the depth in awe, pride and love.

Born in Danville, Virginia in 1939, the son of James Thomas and Blanche Arthur, he was a bright and meticulously driven student. He was a musician, he was an athlete. He was an integral part of his high school basketball team (was a dead-eye free throw shooter, with an amazing 68% from the stripe) and a very good piano player, having taken piano lessons at an early age. He later taught himself to play guitar as well.

He was an absolutely amazing big brother to an adopted little sister, Wanda Arthur Brooks (RIP). They were incredibly close.

Dad was a Virginia Tech Hokie through and through. He entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1957, into the ROTC Corps of Cadets program, rising to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and Squadron Commander by the time he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1961. He was a member of the German Club at Virginia Tech, he was a member of the National Arnold Air Society, he was a member of the National Scabbard and Blade Society.

Dad was commissioned into the United States Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant, serving at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dad was Honorably Discharged in 1965. He returned to Virginia Tech for two additional degrees, a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, and a Master's of Electrical Engineering.

Dad worked for Lockheed Aircraft Manufacturing Corp in Georgia, with his principal duties being in communication systems engineering and design for the massive C5-A Galaxy military transport plane.

He road motorcycles at that time, and survived a motorcycle accident that ended his interests on a street bike.

He, along with my late mother, became heavily interested in American Saddlebred show horses, and began to ride and show. After moving back to the Danville area, and Pittsylvania County, they established a show horse farm and American Saddlebred horse breeding enterprise.

At one point, my parents and my sister were extremely active in showing American Saddlebreds, and we had upward of 50 horses on our farm, headlined by two nationally known bloodlined breeding stallions.

My father also built numerous small businesses from scratch, in the telecommunications and fire and security industries, and has been a successful small

business man in Danville for over 50 years of his working life.

My father was also a private pilot. Having a lifelong affinity for flying, but never having the razor sharp eyesight needed to do it as an Air Force pilot, he became a private pilot and thoroughly enjoyed pleasure flying.

My father built his own airplane, almost entirely from scratch. Started with a set of plans and a tube-welded frame. It was an open-cockpit bi-wing acrobatic single seater. He built the plane over the course of a multi-year hobby project, and successfully flew it.

Not many are lucky enough to say the following: he survived a plane crash. He survived crashing landing the bi-wing acrobatic plane. A malfunction in his gas line and fuel pump caused him to lose all engine power at no more than 300 feet altitude, and he successfully emergency crash landed it, and walked away from the crash (continued)

James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 08:37 AM



“ and walked away from the crash almost unscathed. He later repaired the plane back to new, and flew it again before selling it.

In his later years, he was very active in local politics in the Danville and Pittsylvania County area, serving on the Danville Tobacco Commission as well as other political endeavors to better his home area.

He has followed Virginia Tech sports with a passion for literally decades. Easily from the 70's on, through all the good and all the bad. The number of great memories I have of VT sports with him are seemingly infinite.

He is without a doubt the reason I am a Hokie. And I thank him for that every day.

I could write a book on the lessons he taught me, and the very important life knowledge I gained from having him as my dad. I will love and miss him forever. I appreciate you reading about his life.

I love you Pop. Until we meet again.

James Arthur

James - November 23, 2020 at 08:38 AM



“ I love learning these things about Tom. I always enjoyed being in his presence, as he was so kind and interesting to talk to. I know you will miss your dad so much, and I'm grateful for you to have so many wonderful memories, as well as such deep respect and admiration. God bless-

Patricia - November 23, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 08:23 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 08:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 08:06 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 08:03 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 08:02 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 07:57 AM



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James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 07:40 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 07:39 AM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 07:38 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



James Arthur - November 23, 2020 at 07:33 AM