



## Mary Wood Thomas

December 7, 1923 - July 14, 2013

Mary Beth Wood Thomas - Bluefield, WV - Devoted mother, grandmother, lover of animals, flowers, books, and all things beautiful, sadly and peacefully left this earth on July 14th, 2013 at her home. She was born to Sparrel Abe Wood and Caryl Dean McMorro Wood on December 7, 1923 in Bluefield, WV. The bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred on her eighteenth birthday. The following year she met a handsome, gifted, and established young musician, Paul C. Thomas, Jr., at a dance. Her life path and journey was completely altered by World War II, as happened to everyone during those very difficult years in our country's history. Mary Beth married Paul, a new Army recruit, on May 5, 1943, and shared her life with him for the next 50 years. The couple first lived in Little Rock, AR on an army base, and soon returned home to Bluefield. Paul left for the invasion of Europe as part of the infantry in the spring of 1944, shortly after the birth of their first child. Mary Beth lived in Bluefield for the rest of her life, except for three years in Richmond, VA in the mid 50s. Mary Beth grew up in Bluefield and attended school at Whitethorn Elementary, Fairview Junior, and Beaver High School. She began her college studies at Bluefield College in 1941, graduating with an Associates Degree in December 1942. In the 60s, with her four children in school, she achieved her Bachelors degree at Bluefield State College, and also obtained a Masters degree in psychology from Radford University in 1972. She taught history at Graham Junior High School for many years. Mary Beth was involved in various garden and book clubs throughout her life, including the McGuffey

Book Club. She was an extremely loyal and active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bluefield for almost 70 years, and spearheaded any number of projects that involved thousands of hours of exquisite and detailed handwork. These beautiful works of art will live on in the sanctuary as a reminder of her devotion to this important community in her life and her strong faith in God. But there was nothing in the world that mattered more to Mary Beth than her family. She was always deeply connected to all of her extended families throughout her very full life, and was a most devoted mother to four children and four grandchildren. She was the primary caregiver for her own parents as well as her husband's parents during the 1980s, who all lived in Bluefield and well into their nineties, and she also cared for her husband throughout a long illness until his death in January of 1995. She was renowned for her sharp mind, her love of history, music, dancing and storytelling, and her loving and generous spirit throughout her life. She affected the lives of so many and she will be profoundly missed. Family left to cherish her memory are sons, Paul C. Thomas III and wife Bobbi Sue Bales, Stephen P. Thomas, all of Bluefield, WV, Bruce A. Thomas and wife Gail of Stow, MA, daughter Caryl Beth Thomas and husband Jacobus van-Loon of Hyde Park, MA, daughter in law Connie Thomas of Lewisburg, WV. Her grandsons are Micah Leigh Wood Thomas of Asheville, NC, Shaun Paul Thomas of Los Angeles, CA, Kellan Campbell Thomas of Brighton, MA, and Jess Christian Thomas of Stow, MA. Memorial Services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Friday, July 19 at 3PM. Internment will be a small family service at Monte Vista Cemetery earlier in the day. In lieu of flowers, remembrances should be sent to the First Presbyterian Church Music Fund, 208 Tazewell Ave, Bluefield, WV, 24701. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting [www.MercerFuneralHome.com](http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com) Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mary Beth Thomas family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Wood Thomas*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *DEAR PAUL, STEVE, BRUCE, & CAROL BETH & FAMILY, PLEASE ACCEPT MY HEART FELT CONDOLENCES FOR THE REPOSE OF YOUR BELOVED MOTHER, SUCH A GRACIOUS PERSON, AS SHE WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE IN EVERYONE'S MEMORY. GOD GRANT REST TO HER SOUL AND COMFORT YOU IN YOUR LOSS. LOVE, GINNY CHRYSSIKOS, FORMER NEIGHBOR*

**GINNY CHRYSSIKOS** - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *Caryl Beth, I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Hoping your memories of a life well lived support you in this time of sorrow!!!*

**Joe Flannery** - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *Caryl Beth and Family: Please accept my deepest sympathies for the loss of your dear mother. You can just see the love she had for this furry companion pictured. It was good to see you at Dr. Bailey's and know you are in my prayers. Take good care of her little girl.*

**Penny Welch Belcher** - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

DC

“ Beautiful life well lived. What a wonderful matriarch and community member...whose loss will be deeply mourned and joyfully celebrated. Peace to all.

Donna Chadwick - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

JS

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Joe and Karen Simon - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

AC

“ I am thinking of all of you today and will be with you in spirit at Monte Vista. The obituary is a beautiful one - it really catches the essence of dear Aunt Mary Beth. She meant a lot to us nieces. She was a true force in this life and I will miss her. Love to you all. Anne

Anne Curti - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

BK

“ Steve,Paul I M so sorry toy hour loss . Your Mom was a great lady in every sense of the word. I have enjoyed being a friend of hers. I won't be able to be with you I tomorrow but I'll be there in spirit and in my prayers .

Bill Kell - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

LW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Thomas family at this time. We are so sorry for your loss. We wish you love, peace and strength as you go forward and hope you find comfort in the many, many good memories. With our love, Lisa & Duane Wheeler, Caroline and Chase.

Lisa Wheeler - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

MF

“ I am sending love and light to you all as you mourn the passing of this wonderful woman. She was such a presence and beautiful inside and out and will be greatly missed. May she live on in your memories.

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**Michele Forinash** - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

SH

“ Your mother was one of a kind. She was so intelligent, gifted, talented, kind, gracious and always a lady. I adored her as my teacher, although she may not have always liked my behavior! However, she handled a difficult situation for me with grace and empathy and I'll never forget that. I know our losses are inevitable, but our memories keep them alive and we will always pass those on. I know you will, too. Susan Fortune Henderson Susan Fortune Henderson

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**Susan Fortune Henderson** - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

JV

“ So sorry to read of the passing of Mrs. Thomas. She was a very kind, sweet lady that will be missed by many I'm sure.

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**Jeanette Vernon** - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

GH

“ I am sorry I am unable to attend the services for 'Mother' Thomas. She was a wonderful woman who loved her family and friends. I will cherish my fond memories of her as an intelligent, caring individual. May you all find peace during this difficult time of loss.

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**Greg Hyslop** - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM