

## ANTHONY A. THOMAS

1924- 2005

### FAMILY HISTORY:

Anthony A. Thomas on born on March 24, 1924 in Watervliet, New York. Anthony was the son of the late Geraldine Lombardi and Joseph Thomas and brother of Ralph, James, Nicholas, Joseph, Elizabeth, Angela, Geraldine, Marty and Constance. Tony grew up in Albany and Watervliet until 1953, lived in Troy from 1953-1986, eventually settling in Grafton until his passing.

### EDUCATION:

Tony graduated from Watervliet High School and attended SUNY Utica.

### HISTORY:

Tony served in the United States Coast Guard from 1942 to 1946 and served in the United States Navy from 1950 to 1952 through the Korean Conflict. He saw action when his unit hit the Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944 and also in Southern France on August 15, 1944 and later in Okinawa. Before being honorably discharged in 1946 Tony served on board the USS SAMUEL CHASE, while part of Task Force 33, 3rd Fleet during the original occupation of the Japanese mainland. Tony was a recipient of the American Area Medal, Victory Medal, European African Middle Eastern Area Medal (2 Bronze Stars), Asiatic Pacific Area Medal and the Philippine Liberation Medal. During the Korean Conflict, Tony served on the USS PCE 904, a patrol craft escort. He was Honorably Discharged in 1952.

PERSONAL: Tony married Helen C. Maier Thomas on May 23, 1953 at St. Mary's Church in Troy, New York. Together they had six children; Andrea, Charles, Mary-Beth, Robert, John and Paul, four grandchildren; Brynna, Maggie, Sophia and Dylan.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Tony worked as a Sales Representative for the former Bearing Distributors in Troy for 32 years before retiring in 1986.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS: Very active in his community, Tony enjoyed his volunteer work with the RPI Athletic Department for over 40 years as a player-host and coordinator. He was a minor official for RPI hockey

and football games and served as past President of the Friends of RPI Hockey. Tony also was a volunteer and instructor for the New York Special Olympics. Tony was the past president and board member of the Troy Kiwanis Club and received numerous awards and citations including the Legion of Merit for community service and Kiwanis Principles. Tony was a scratch golfer in his younger years and worked as a starter at Frear Park Gold Course in Troy for 10 years. Tony was co-founder, past president and secretary of the Frear Park Twilight League and past president of the Frear Park Golf Association. He served as volunteer and instructor to the Blind Golfers Association. He was a former member of the Mount Anthony Country Club in Bennington, Vermont. Tony was a former member of the Knights of Columbus, the Troy Industrial Club, Brunswick Lodge of Elks and Junior Chamber International. He was co-founder past vice president and instructor of the Troy Babe Ruth League. He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Berlin and a former member of St. Patrick's and Our Lady of Victory in Troy.