

Thomas Skinner Brothers



Thomas Skinner Brothers

Suffolk, VA

04.16.1941 - 04.04.2019

Birthplace: Norfolk, VA

Thomas Skinner Brothers, 77, died on April 4, 2019 after a long illness. Born to the late Reginald Edward and Lucy Kittrell Brothers on April 16, 1941, he died in the home where he was reared. He was also predeceased by his older brother Reginald, Jr.

Tom attended public schools in Suffolk and graduated from Suffolk High School where he was Co-Captain of the Red Raiders football team his senior year. After attending Augusta Military Academy for a year, he went to Virginia Military Institute. Soon he returned to Suffolk to join his father in Reginald E. Brothers Co.

He was married for 57 years to his high school sweet heart, Betsy, whose loving care made it possible for his last days to be spent at home.

Tom was a hardworking man who, in spite of his strong work ethic, was always ready to enjoy a joke- especially his old favorites- or a meal with friends in Suffolk or Nags Head. So many of these friends he had know his whole life. For years he and Betsy hosted a Christmas party for children where Tom was the Spirit of Christmas dressed as Santa, a funny Santa. As long as health permitted, he enjoyed tending a garden and then helping Betsy with pickling and canning.

Tom was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where he was Baptized on Pearl Harbor Day on December 7, 1941 and later served on the Vestry. He frequently cooked for church functions. At the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, he often cooked his own homemade sausage, smoked in his backyard smokehouse. Tom was a member of Suffolk Elks Lodge #685.

He is survived by his beloved wife Betsy and his precious daughter Elizabeth Brothers Dolan of Suffolk and his dear granddaughter Elizabeth Bartlett Dolan of Washington, DC. Also surviving are his sister Joan Kittrell Vinson and her husband Robert of Wichita Falls, TX, and Nags Head; and his special nieces and nephews Rob, Loring, Kit, Luelen, Joe, Jim, Katrine, Lee, Tina and Thad. Tom is also survived by his devoted little dog Lucy.

A service celebrating Tom's life will be conducted on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 3 PM at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 213 N. Main St. Suffolk VA 23434 by The Very Rev. Dr. Keith Emerson. Burial will be private in Cedar Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends in the R.W. Baker & Co. Funeral Home and Crematory, 509 W. Washington St. Suffolk on Sunday, April 7, 2019 from 3 to 4:30 PM. The family is grateful to Lisa White, to special care givers, and to Compassionate Care Hospice for their faithful help with Tom's Care. Memorials may made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church or to the Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts, 110 Finney Ave, Suffolk VA 23434. Condolences may be registered at RWBakerFH.com

Service

Start Time: Monday, April 8, 2019 - 03:00pm

End Time: Monday, April 8, 2019 - 04:00pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

213 N. Main St.

Suffolk, VA 23434

United States

Funeral Home

Start Time: Sunday, April 7, 2019 - 03:00pm

End Time: Sunday, April 7, 2019 - 04:30pm

R.W. Baker & Company Funeral Home

509 W Washington St

Suffolk, VA 23434

United States

Google Maps Link

[Directions to St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#)

Google Maps Link

[Directions to R.W. Baker & Company Funeral Home](#)

Guestbook

Frank Butler

Fri, 04/05/2019 -
05:00am

Tom was a fine stand up gentleman. A true loss to community, family and friends.

Frank Butler

Beverly Judkins

Fri, 04/05/2019 -
09:14am

Tom was a wonderful gentleman, with a great sense of humor. I will miss seeing him at St. Paul's Church. He made outstanding sausage for the parish breakfasts. Tom was always willing to offer advice and lend a helping hand. May God be with Betsy and family and comfort them.

Beverly Judkins

Jeff Pond

Fri, 04/05/2019 -
10:21am

He will be missed.

Jeff Pond and family

Jeff Pond

**John and Sharon
Click**

**Fri, 04/05/2019 -
10:32am**

Elizabeth, please know that you, Liza Bart and your you mom are in our thoughts and prayers.

John and Sharon Click

Kaye Doughtie

**Fri, 04/05/2019 -
11:20am**

Betsy, so very sorry for your loss. Mine is still very raw so I know what you are feeling. 57 years is a very long time to spend with the love of your life as I know all too well. It's hard to remember life before them and extremely hard for life without them. Tom will be laid to rest on Pete's birthday. Just know my thoughts and prayers will be with you now and in the coming days. Much love, Kaye

Kaye Doughtie

**Glenda Mizell
Daughtrey,
Smithfield, Virginia**

**Fri, 04/05/2019 -
11:39am**

Oh Betsy, so sorry, but relieved for both of you. Tom was indeed a Special Guy, but you know that....Never a dull moment, loved by so many and will be missed. Bet Heaven is laughing already!☺

Sending hugs, love and prayers to you and your family during these difficult days... ♡

Glenda Mizell Daughtrey, Smithfield, Virginia

Jimmy Wooster

**Sat, 04/06/2019 -
01:14pm**

Oh Betsey : Seems like a lot less then the 60 + years we have known and loved you and Tom . We are blessed to have had you in our lives . Tom was blessed to have you at his side . Peace Tom . Peace Betsey , Jimmy

Jimmy Wooster

**Virginia Hunter
(Sister Hayes)**

**Sun, 04/07/2019 -
06:08pm**

I loved Tom very much. We shall all miss him. Thinking of you.

Virginia Hunter (Sister Hayes)

William Ballard Jr

**Mon, 04/08/2019 -
07:45am**

Am sorry to hear of Tom's passing, Betsy...Bonnie (sister) and I grew upon River Rd. as next door neighbors, and we thought Tom was the coolest guy in town, and Betsy the most talented (still is) ...You both were the best next door friends anyone could ever have! We have cherished memories of the laughs, songs, good times, and kindnesses we all shared not only on the river but at Nags Head with your family. It is very easy to say Tom was a gentleman, which is true, but he was a considerate, kind, and reflective man who I admired as I knew him to be a happy married man. We valued knowing the Brothers and seeing Elizabeth growing up so pretty and kind, like her parents!
Jean and I will never forget your attending our wedding in Richmond!
Tom was golden!

William Ballard Jr



R.W. Baker & Company
Funeral Home and Crematory