



## Thomas Gillis Jewell

July 13, 1926 - July 6, 2020

On July 6, 2020, (seven days before his 94th birthday), Tom Jewell, a disabled decorated hero of WWII, died from natural causes. Tom was the beloved husband of the late Dorothy Elizabeth Jewell, who died on January 3, 2010. He was the devoted father of sons Thomas Michael Jewell, his wife Joann “Jody”, and Steven Douglass Jewell, who died on January 12, 2020. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Tom was born in Grasonville, MD, on Friday July 13, 1926. He graduated from Stevensville High School in June 1943. He received a four year scholarship to St. Johns College and after spending two years there, he went on to Virginia Military Institute. At age 17, Tom joined the U.S. Army, and after 17 weeks of basic training, he went off to the European Theatre in early January 1945. He was immediately sent to the front lines to join the 78th Infantry Division, which was already engaged in heavily fighting with the German Army. On March 9, 1945, Tom was severely wounded after crossing the Remagen Bridge over the Rhine River. He was left for dead by his company and covered with a foot of snow. About 20 hours later he was found frozen stiff by a death squad. When lifted, he suddenly revived, and was taken by boat down the Rhine River. The death squad left him on a pier near a German Catholic Infirmary, where he was temporarily a POW until he was saved by an American patrol. He was hospitalized in Paris where he had several major operations.

After being sent to several other U.S. Army hospitals, he finally was sent to Greenbriar Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, WV, for three months until his discharge in August 28, 1945.

At age 18, Tom received a battlefield promotion from Private to Sergeant, becoming one of the youngest combat Sergeants on the German front, was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, seven service medals, and two Presidential Unit Citations. He was rated 100% disabled, suffering almost constant pain, most of his adult life, most of which he stoically concealed from his family, friends, and clients. His wife reported that he often cried himself to sleep.

After many months of in-home care for recovery from his injuries, as well as his attempts to learn to live with his very strong PTSD, which he never conquered. He entered the Architectural School at the University of Virginia under the Public Law 16 program. After three years, he received his B.S. in Architecture in 1949. He was honored to be a member of the Scarab fraternity. After three years working with Henry Powell Hopkins, FAIA, where he prepared most of the drawings for the Chapel at the University of Maryland, he left to open his own practice in 1952. With several partners over the years, he finally closed his practice in 1998, after 47 years of continuous private contemporary work as an architect.

Tom was registered in Maryland, Virginia, and Hawaii, along with NCARB Registration. He was involved in the design and execution of numerous public and private buildings and communities throughout the region, including Sutton Place, The Dell House, Valleys of Towson, Summit Park, Guilford Downs, and numerous shopping centers including Kenilworth Bazaar. One of his last projects was the new Chapel for St. Paul's School for Boys that he completed with his co-architects, Daniels and Jones. His final project was the reconfiguration of the Upper School for St. Paul's School for Boys.

Among his many professional and public contributions, he served as president of AIA Baltimore in 1970, which he was the first president of in 1969. He also served as president of The Greater Baltimore Arts festival from 1966 to 1968, which produced the first Charles Center Festival after the riots. Tom served as secretary of the Mayor's Ball Committee from 1973 to 1985. He also served as Chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Art and Culture (MACAC) from 1977 to 1985. One of the original developers of Artscape, he served as Secretary / Treasure from 1981-1985. For his public service, Tom received both a Mayor's Citation and a Governor's Citation, which along with his two Presidential Unit Citations, gave him recognition from all three levels of government.

Tom was a founding member of VFW Post 7464, Grasonville, and designed the main hall structure in 1947. He was a life member of DAV. He has been a long standing member of TCA and APS. In his earlier years, he was a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and retired at age 35 as an "exhausted rooster." He was a member of the Eastern Shore Society for several years. He has written several unpublished books covering his war days, his Winchester Creek, his life, and his family's history.

In 1957, Tom married Dorothy E. Teichen, a native of Illinois. She was a head nurse at Johns Hopkins and later a school nurse at Seton High School. Together in 1966 they designed and built their special home on The Terraces in Baltimore County, where they have resided for many years. They also have a home on Winchester Creek, Grasonville (Gillis' hometown) which they visited frequently. Gillis was proud to have been the architect for the steep roofed Seventh-Day Adventist Church and adjoining Medical Center, seen from Route 50, as well as the United Methodist Church and school on Main Street-both in Grasonville.

Tom was proud of his Viking, English, Irish and southern heritages. His grandmother Dolores Hampton Eaton was a close relative of General Wade Hampton of Civil War fame and his grandfather, Walter Eaton was descended from Lord James Alexander Eaton. Tom was named for his uncle and family doctor, Dr. Andrew Gillis of pre-war Johns Hopkins fame. He was known as Gillis on the Eastern Shore, and Tom on the Western Shore.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Gillis' beloved high school, Stevensville High School Alumni Scholarship Fund: P.O. Box 943 Stevensville, MD 21666. Remember Gillis started with a scholarship. He hopes that many of his family and friends will choose to remember him this way as he looks forward to his second trip and being with his wife and friends again.

A memorial services will be held at a later time when the current restrictions are lifted in Baltimore. A private, committal graveside internment for family members will take place at St. Peters Roman Catholic Church Cemetery in Queenstown, MD, on Friday July 17, 2020 at 11 am.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery

5319 Ocean Gateway  
Queenstown, MD 21658

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery  
5319 Ocean Gateway  
Queenstown, MD 21658

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Gillis Jewell*



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - July 14, 2020 at 10:26 AM

JP

*God Bless You My Dearest Uncle Tom. Will miss you deeply. You are with Aunt Dorothy and Cousin Steve you are reunited. With great love. Joan Petersen-Viksne and Family.*

**Joan Petersen-Viksne** - July 14, 2020 at 07:43 PM

JB

*What a wonderful tribute to such a wonderful man RIP Tom*

**Jean Briwn** - July 17, 2020 at 10:58 PM

MH

*That was an awesome tribute video. May God bless you, Tom. What a wonderful man - smart, kind, and generous with so many accomplishments during his lifetime Tom was extremely helpful to me becoming an architect starting in 1970 when he gave me a job just out of high school. I owed him a lot and I hope he knew just how much I respected and appreciated him. I know God has a very special place in heaven for Tom with Dorothy and his son, Steve. I will always remember you and the many things that you taught me. Michael Hackley*

**Michael Hackley** - July 18, 2020 at 12:37 PM



“ Thomas Gillis Jewell

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Thomas Gillis Jewell

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Thomas Gillis Jewell

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ I'm a member of Stella Maris Senior Day Center  
And was privileged to know Tom and be a friend of his. Such a remarkable man! He is/was my hero! And all of his accomplishments!  
My condolences to his family. He is now with his Dorothy and son God Bless, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Tom certainly made his mark on this earth and now to the Everlasting Eternal Life, Gone But Will Never Be Forgotten

Jean Briwn - July 17, 2020 at 10:54 PM



“ Tammy Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Thomas Gillis Jewell



Tammy Larrimore - July 15, 2020 at 08:21 PM

CJ

“ Claudia Jewell sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Gillis Jewell



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**Claudia Jewell** - July 15, 2020 at 02:40 PM



“ Dani Woodhurst lit a candle in memory of Thomas Gillis Jewell



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**Dani Woodhurst** - July 15, 2020 at 08:01 AM

JP

“ Joan Petersen-Viksne sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Gillis Jewell



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**Joan Petersen-Viksne** - July 14, 2020 at 07:48 PM

JP

Also such a Great Uncle to my son Navy Corpsman (Medic) Veteran Afghanistan War and my daughter Melissa Ann Viksne. You gave my children great vacation memories at Cheseapeake Bay, at the Smithsonian in DC and the Inner Harbour Aquarium In Baltimore City. Remember Karl my sons first visit to your home in Mt Washington. We put him a box on your patio and he had fun sitting up in a cardboard box. And Melissa my daughter seeing a swan for the first time in Grasonville Md and chasing it to the edge of your property. Caught her just in time before she ended up in the Chester River. Everytime I pull out the Old Bay Seasoning I will think of you.

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**Joan Petersen-Viksne** - July 14, 2020 at 07:57 PM

SF

“ Lots of many good memories and he had a life filled with joy and sadness but the joy always came through. Take Joy. Take Love Take Peace! We will miss you Uncle Tom.  
Yes, we have no bananas. WE have no bananas today!

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**sarah morgan and family** - July 14, 2020 at 07:11 PM

CJ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Claudia Jewell** - July 14, 2020 at 06:53 PM

CJ

*Uncle Gillis was the patriarch of the Jewell family for many years. He was passionate about the Shore, his family, his military service and his faith. His was truly a life well lived and he is at peace at last with his beloved Dorothy and Steve. Rest in Peace. Love Charles & Claudia*

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**Claudia Jewell** - July 15, 2020 at 02:46 PM

AH

*Many of the descendants of Stevensville High School Alumni were the recipients of the many contributions Gillis made to our Scholarship Fund. He was very loyal to his Alma Mater. It is no surprise that he requested memorials be given to this cause.*

*Rest well, old friend.*

*Ava Honeycutt*

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**Ava Honeycutt** - July 15, 2020 at 07:08 PM

SP

*Uncle Tom, lots of great memories from having you in my life. I can remember that wry smile and attempts at humor when I was growing up and always enjoyed seeing him in Illinois when he visited or when I was out in MD. I thank him for his service to our Country and commitment to others the community. I was lucky to have him as part of my life and having his input in trying to point me in the right direction as a young man. May God bless you and your family. Your memories will always be cherished. Everytime I pick up a book or 2 you gave me to read I smile and remember you. You will be missed, but the memories of you will never be forgotten.*

*God bless,*

*Your Nephew, Stuart A. Petersen and family, Sheri Gambino Petersen and their children Gianna and Micheal Petersen*

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**Stuart Petersen** - July 16, 2020 at 08:31 AM

SJ

*My brother in law Tom, was a great friend to me through out the years and became friends with with my second husband Thomas Jacek, who just past away himself in February. He was the perfect soul mate for my sister Dorothy. So many great memories of him and Dorothy that will never be forgotten. He was always so compassionate and always brought a smile to our faces. He was a joy to have in my life and my families life and will be greatly missed. I am sure my three angels Tom, Tom and Dorothy are in heaven reunited and are smiling down up their families.*

*Love always to my Tom and Dorothy.*

*God Bless*

*Shirley Petersen Jacek*

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**Shirley Petersen Jacek** - July 17, 2020 at 09:17 AM