

Thomas Francis Morrissey

October 8, 1924 - July 5, 2012

Thomas Francis Morrissey, born October 8th, 1924 passed away July 5th, 2012 just 3 months and 3 days shy of his 88th birthday. He is survived by his wife of almost 65 years Virginia Blankenship. "Tom" met and married "Ginger" in Illinois in 1947 upon returning from WWII where he served in the navy on the USS Intrepid. He was a life member of the VFW Post 5656.

Tom and Ginger had a son Michael Allen in 1948. Due to young Michael's health, they packed their car and headed to San Bernadino, CA. around 1952 where Tom began a career in Civil Service. In 1956 the couple welcomed a second son James Frances to the family. In 1961 the family moved to Santa Barbara, where they have lived ever since.

Tom retired from the Naval Ship Weapon Systems Engineering Station in Port Hueneme in 1985 after 32 years of service. His early years of service included working with Nato and numerous trips over seas. He once enjoyed golf, traveling, and annual trips to the Colorado River and Laughlin.

Tom was preceded in death by his sister Alice Cicia (CT), son Michael, a great granddaughter, and a great great grandson. He is survived by his wife Virginia, son James, 5 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, his sister Mary Rose Kelly (IL), his sister Isabel Longloy (TX), and numerous nieces and nephews.

After the death of Tom's father in 1925, his mother said "The angels came in the night and took your daddy home". The angels came again on July 5th 2012. Tom will truly be missed.

Services will be held graveside with military honors at Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum in Santa Barbara at 11am on July 14th, 2012.

The family would like to purchase a Seat of Honor with brass plaque in recognition of his service on the USS Intrepid. If you would like to contribute you may send donations to James Morrissey w/Intrepid Seat in the memo. Information: <http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/Seats-of-Honor.aspx>

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 14. 11:00 AM (PT)

Calvary Cemetery
199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Tribute Wall

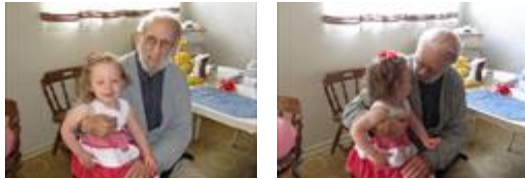
TB

“ Thank you to everyone who has posted their memories about my grandpa - I will be printing these out late in the week and bringing them up to Santa Barbara for Jim & Ginger! We miss him very much - the house is just not the same without him there but as I told my girls, he left his love with us forever.

Tricia Bowman - July 17, 2012 at 02:12 PM

PB

“ 2 files added to the album Grandpa/Great Grandpa Tom



Patricia Bowman - July 16, 2012 at 09:59 PM

PB

“ 4 files added to the album Tom's Service - 7/14/2012 Calvary Cemetery Santa Barbara



Patrica Bowman - July 16, 2012 at 05:37 PM

DK

“ Sending our prayers and sympathy to you Aunt Ginger, Jimmy, and family. I have many wonderful memories of my Uncle Tom. When we were little my brother Tom and I always looked forward to seeing Uncle Tom and Aunt Ginger (and later with Mike and Jimmy) when they came over to Washington. I remember Tom fixed the first homemade pizza we ever had at our house and we loved it! Tom made at least two trips to Quincy after I was married to Nancy and he loved the boat rides on the Mississippi river with our boys to hogback island. When our family went to visit in California it was really a thrill. WE enjoyed the ocean, seeing Tom's pubs and his close buddies. I'll never forget the fire on one trip and the smoke was really bad and Tom said, "don't worry, we are safe here and went on to bed" ha My Mom was scared and said " get your jewels together and lets go". Her brother convinced her it was OK to stay. :) The Dodger game was fun etc. , but most of all his personality and sense of humor was tops. I am also so proud of Uncle Tom for fighting for his country and being on the USS Intrepid. He is and always will be our hero. Don Kelly

Don Kelly - July 16, 2012 at 11:03 AM

ML

“ Dear Ginger Jim and our dear brother's family,
We send our love and sympathy. Sorry we are
unable to come to the services but will be there
in our thoughts and prayers. We have arranged
to have thirty days of continual Masses
said for Tom, the Gregorian Mass series.



Among some memories of our brother: Seeing our 17 year old
brother joining the Navy and coming home with numerous honorary
medals after serving on the USS Intrepid Air Craft Carrier. He then
married Ginger who we all fell in love with. A few years later, Ginger
Tom and Michael were on their way to California hoping the weather
change would help Michaels asthma. The car was loaded with their
belongings, had no air conditioner and had Michael's
fire truck on top of the car. They loved California, baby Jim was born
and the years seemed to fly by. Tom our baby brother has gone to
his heavenly home to join Michael who died in 2004. We enjoyed the
families visits throught out the years and our trips to California. Love
Isabel and Maryrose

Maryrose Kelly and Isabel Longloy - July 15, 2012 at 07:40 PM

EM

“ I have been thinking of Uncle Tom and praying for him all week. His visits to San Antonio were always anticipated with joy and love. On one of his visits when I was a teenager, he introduced our family to the avocado, making a comment like, "Wow, you Texans are way behind!" When I moved to Santa Monica, California, Uncle Tom and Aunt Ginger were there for me, visiting often and inviting us to Santa Barbara. I remember on one visit to Santa Barbara, he took me to several of his "hang-out "spots where he was enthusiastically greeted by everyone there. Driving to Carmel, we asked Uncle Tom to take care of Chevas, our black cocker spaniel. Of course, Uncle Tom said yes, and when we dropped her off, he had made his fantastic chili for us (enough to feed an army!) and then loaded us down with snacks and drinks, while instructing us to not worry and have a great time. I have fond memories of him teasing me and calling me "Wo Wo " and walking into the hospital when I had my first child carrying a large box of See's candy! Uncle Tom was funny and a real family man. It was always wonderful to see him interact with his sisters, Alice, Maryrose, and Issy when they were able to get together, laughing and remembering childhood events. But ironically, they never really seemed to agree on how those events happened, always lovingly, jokingly disagreeing on the details! He loved Aunt Ginger, always making sure she had her cheese or small snacks along to munch on, and he loved his sons Michael and Jimmy and was so proud of them. He told me after I had my first child that children bring the best part of a person forward. He was a doting grandfather, and from the pictures I have seen, a doting great-grandfather. There has been an emptiness in my heart all week. I will remember Uncle Tom in my prayers and I ask God to give his family the strength to endure this heart ache.



Fondly,
Rose Ellen (Longloy) San Martin

Ellen san Martin - July 15, 2012 at 10:32 AM

GB

“ *Uncle Tom was always one of my favorite characters. I have many fond memories of the times we enjoyed on our hunting trips to Utah with Uncle Ray and my dad. His doctor said Tom wasn't even supposed to go up into the mountains, due to health concerns, but he insisted on going with us, and also insisted on being the official camp cook. He loved cooking....and especially watching other people enjoy his "gourmet" concoctions. He made us breakfast every day and then while we were all out hunting, he would stay in the camp and fix a great dinner for us when we got back at nightfall. Then, after he got the dishes done and the kitchen cleaned, we would all go outside, have drinks, and shoot the bull around the campfire, until it got so cold we finally had to go back into the trailer. Then, we would begin the poker game and Tom would do his best to fleece us all....and he usually did a pretty good job of it ! Very fond memories indeed !*

I proudly tell all my friends about Tom's service on the USS Intrepid. I am a WW-II history buff and it was incredible to have him relate personal stories of his war experiences on this famous aircraft carrier around the campfire.....only a couple times did he ever really speak of it, but it was a real privilege to hear the stories of the dangers faced and the sacrifices made by men like him. As a battle tested WW-II Navy veteran, he was a living hero to me, a true patriot, and a part of our great American culture and history. I am honored to have known him. Rest in peace, Uncle Tom. The world is a little bit dimmer place with your departure. You will be missed.

Gary Blankenship - July 12, 2012 at 11:36 AM

PB

“ 6 files added to the album Grandpa/Great Grandpa Tom




Patricia (Tricia) Bowman - July 10, 2012 at 10:35 PM

KB

“ RIP Uncle Tom. You have touched the lives of so many people over the years and now you have been called home where you will suffer no more. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone there, sorry that I can't make it there for the services.

Keith Blankenship - July 10, 2012 at 10:53 AM

 Tricia Bowman

“ Tricia Bowman lit a candle in memory of Thomas Francis Morrissey



Tricia Bowman - July 09, 2012 at 11:36 PM