



Francis Thompson Obituary

Francis L. Thompson (Tommy) 1916-2009 Francis L. Thompson (Tommy), age 92, of Meridian, Idaho passed away Sunday, May 24, 2009, at Saint Alphonsus Hospital surrounded by members of his family. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 29, 2009, at Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise, Idaho. Tommy was born Oct. 30, 1916 in Medicine Lodge, Kan. to Melvin and Beulah Thompson. He attended schools in Medicine Lodge and the Chicago area, Tilden Technical School in Chicago, and the Northwestern State Teacher's College in Alba, Okla. He entered the U. S. Navy in October 1936 as a member of the Navy Band and was assigned to the USS Yorktown. He was with the Yorktown during the Battle of Coral Sea and when it was sunk by Japanese forces during the Battle of Midway. He later re-enlisted as an Electronics Technician and spent a career of over twenty years serving on various ships and shore assignments, to include the USS Boston and USS Lexington. He retired in 1957 as a Chief Warrant Officer. In 1944, Tommy married Grace Katherine Miller in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. They had one daughter, Elizabeth Ann (Betsy). During his Navy career, his family followed him to various duty locations and ports throughout the United States and overseas. Following retirement from the Navy, Tommy spent a second career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation instructing nuclear Navy personnel at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and serving as an engineer and consultant in the construction and start-up of numerous nuclear power reactors throughout the United States. For a time, he ran his own consulting business: T Square, Inc. He retired, one last time, in 1988, spending summers at his home in Boise, Idaho and winters in Surprise, Arizona. He had many friends among the "Snowbird" community. He loved to travel and toured Europe and visited South America and Australia in his later years. He was an avid golfer, kept himself in good physical condition, and remained active until his death. Tommy was a member of the El Korah Shrine Temple, as well as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was an active member and current President of the USS Yorktown CV5 Club and, at the time of his death, was preparing to attend the club's 32nd reunion in New Orleans, La. He was also a charter member of the U. S. Navy Memorial Foundation and the National World War II Museum. In 2007, Tommy was interviewed for the Veterans History Project. Included in this interview are photos and descriptions from a scrapbook of his Navy career that was compiled by his daughter and granddaughter. A video of this interview is archived at the Library of Congress. Tommy was preceded in death by his wife, Grace; his parents; two brothers (Clarence and Ernest); and a granddaughter, Tracy Ann Munkres. He is survived by his daughter, Betsy, and her husband Mike Munkres of Meridian, 10; three grandchildren, Anthony Munkres of Great Falls, Mont., Tamara Munkres of Boise, 10 and Troy Munkres of Kuna, 10; nine great-grandchildren (Treagon, Devon, Christian, Tim, Kayla, Keanu, Jessica, Eric, and Brett); his sister-in-law, Alice Thompson; and numerous nieces and nephews. Tommy has gone on to join Grace and our Lord in heaven. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and his faithful Black Labrador, Missy. Flowers are welcome at the service.