



## Joan (Gavitt) Thomas

February 19, 1936 - October 24, 2023

Joan (Gavitt) Thomas, 87, of New Britain, wife of Philip H. Thomas, Jr. (Tom) passed away Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at her home. Born in New Britain, daughter of the late Albert and Lois (Connor) Gavitt, she was a Newington resident for ten years before moving back to New Britain. Joan was a graduate of Newington High School, class of 1954, and was employed for five years at Traveler's Insurance Company in Hartford. She was a member of First Church of Christ Congregational in New Britain; was a charter member of the YWCA Handicapped Swim Club; and was a member of the local, state, and national United Cerebral Palsy organizations. She was former president of the local UCP chapter and was active in disability awareness efforts. Joan and other advocates went to the state Capitol and successfully lobbied for hearing dogs like her dog Suzie to have legal clout in public places, equal to that of guide dogs for the blind.

Joan delighted in camping at Hammonasset Beach State Park and was one of the first to own a site at Klondike Camping Resort in Otis, MA, which she called her Happy Place.

Besides her husband, Joan leaves three sons, Philip Thomas III and his wife Barbara of Farmington; Robert Thomas of New Britain; and John Thomas and his wife Ellen of Westport; two sisters, Patricia Shick and her husband Nelson of Bonita Springs, Florida, and Lynn White and her husband David of Bristol; sister-in-law Emy Thomas of St. Croix; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Joan was predeceased by

her stepmother Ruth and stepbrothers Richard and Jack Guite.

A memorial service will be held Friday, November 17 at 1 p.m. at First Church of Christ Congregational, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052. There are no calling hours. She will be buried in South Burying Ground, Kensington at the convenience of family. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain, is assisting with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to First Church of Christ Congregational. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## South Burying Ground

163 Southington Rd.  
Kensington, CT

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 17. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ, Congregational  
830 Corbin Ave  
New Britain, CT 06052

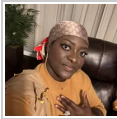
# Tribute Wall

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“ *Joan was a great sister-in-law and the best thing that ever happened to my brother Tom. I'm grateful for the three wonderful nephews I now have.*  
*Emy Thomas*

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**Emy Thomas** - November 03, 2023 at 04:36 PM



*I was Joan's aide(Tracy), she was such a cutie, she hardly talked ,but when she does, it was full of laughter. I really enjoyed being with her 🥰🥰🥰🥰🥰🥰🥰. May her beautiful soul rest in peace 🙏*

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**Tracy Ntim** - November 13, 2023 at 10:27 AM