



## Thomas F. Champion

January 2, 1936 - August 21, 2018

Newburyport, MA - Thomas F. Champion Sr. of Newburyport, 82, died peacefully in his sleep early Tuesday morning, August 21st. He was a 25-year lymphoma survivor, and was appreciative of the care he received over the years at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Tom was born in Swampscott, Mass., on January 2, 1936, son of the late Frederick R. and Margaret (LaForce) Champion. He was a graduate of Swampscott High and Northeastern University, and earned his MBA at the University of Massachusetts in 1959. He was a sharpshooter on the Pistol Team for the Swampscott Auxiliary Police for several years, and served in the Naval Air Reserve as a member of the ground crew for his older brother Donald's fighter jet squadron.

Tom's professional career included positions at State Street Bank, ConductorLab, Transiron, Sanders Associates, Amicon, United Shoe, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, the Archdiocese of Boston, and Haverhill-Newburyport Human Services, as well as owning and operating Browne & Son Signs of Newbury during the 1970s. In his later years he enjoyed teaching Labor Relations and other business courses at Bradford College, Northern Essex Community College, and Salem State University.

Tom and his wife of 56 years, Hildegarde (Kempter) were married in 1962 in

Brooklyn, NY, and raised four children in Newburyport: Elizabeth Champion (Edward) Daly of South Cairo, NY, Christa Champion (Nancy Boutilier) of Maynard, Tom Champion, Jr. (Patty Faass) of Amesbury, and Joanna Champion (Marty) Sailus of Newark Valley, NY. Tom was the beloved grandfather of eight grandchildren: Sarah, Katy, and Julia Daly; Savannah, Sam, and Jack Champion; and Owen and Anna Sailus.

He was predeceased by his parents, his older brothers Donald and Gene, brothers-in-law Chuck Fisher and Peter Price, Sr., and his son-in-law Ed Daly. In addition to his immediate family, he is survived by his sister Barbara, sisters-in-law Dorothy Champion, Marion Champion, and Mary Ann Price, many nieces and nephews, and a large circle of extended family, chosen family, and friends.

In 1999, Tom & Hilde purchased a motor home to fulfill his lifelong dream to travel the country. They soon discovered the beauty and simplicity of the Florida Keys, and for the next 17 years, spent an increasingly large part of each winter camping at Big Pine Key Fishing Lodge, cradled in community. Tom loved to travel to new places, meet new people, make new friends, and tell old stories. He was an excellent dancer, loved to tinker and fix things, could find a purposeful use for just about anything, and was an incurable collector of old junk that he called "good stuff."

Please join us in celebrating Tom's life in a memorial service at 11:00 am Saturday August 25th, to be held at All Saints, 67 Friend Street in Amesbury.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

All Saints Anglican Church  
67 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas F. Champion*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Back on Groton, Mass in the early 60s, Tom and Hilde were the perfect couple. Energetic, athletic, great tennis players. The all-American couple. She was beautiful and he was handsome. Dana Thibeau*

**dana thibeau** - September 12, 2018 at 03:51 PM



“ *TOM'S TREE FUND INFO: In Tom's last months, he & Hilde picked out Oak Hill Cemetery as their final resting place. They really felt the deep peacefulness of the older parts of the cemetery, with its beautiful old oak, beech and maple trees. Tom wanted to know that later generations will be able to enjoy the power and grace of mature trees near his and Hilde's site also (which is in a newer section). The caretaker explained that they are always in the process of planting new trees, as money becomes available. In lieu of flowers, please help us plant trees in Oak Hill Cemetery in Tom's memory. You can donate to the Tom Champion Memorial Tree Fund through his "Go Fund Me" webpage (cut and paste the link below), or send a check payable to Oak Hill Cemetery/Tom's Tree Fund to Hilde Champion, 12 Rawson Hill Road, Newburyport MA 01950.*

**Christa Champion** - September 03, 2018 at 10:08 AM



“ *[www.gofundme.com/tom-champion-memorial-tree-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/tom-champion-memorial-tree-fund)*

**Christa Champion** - September 02, 2018 at 04:39 PM

JM

“ My parents appreciated yours Champ, and while I did not have the privilege of knowing your father, knowing you as the man you are, well as I do, speaks infinitely of the quality, goodness and sorrowful absence of his character. He’s in the arms of He whom he served, and is TRULY singing, with the GREATEST of choirs,....and I suspect they sound just a bit better. ;) my love, thoughts and prayers to you and your family brother. God bless. John Musser

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**John Musser** - August 24, 2018 at 02:06 PM

JO

My family has been praying for Mr. Champion for 25 years. May God's love comfort you during this time and may he rest in peace. Jennifer O'Neill

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**Jennifer O'Neill** - September 08, 2018 at 10:18 PM

EF

“ With sincerest sympathy for your loss of Tom. My thoughts and prayers are added to those many whose lives Tom touched. May the Lord bless and comfort your family in the knowledge oh His great love for Tom and for all of you. Eileen Flaherty

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**Eileen Flaherty** - August 24, 2018 at 09:47 AM

AP

“ My sincere condolences to the Champion family during this difficult time. I always enjoyed meeting and chatting with Tom Sr. He will be very much missed. My prayers are with the family for comfort and peace. Adele

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**Adele Pelletier** - August 24, 2018 at 09:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas F. Champion.*



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August 24, 2018 at 06:16 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Nancy Boutilier** - August 23, 2018 at 08:53 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Nancy Boutilier** - August 23, 2018 at 08:52 PM



*Condolences from hallevik family. My mom sylvia worked for him at the bank and kept pictures. May peace be with him always. Wendy irene hallevik young vero beach fl*

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**Wendy hallevik young** - August 24, 2018 at 11:06 AM

NJ

“ *Hilde and Family*  
*So sorry to read the sad news of Toms Passing.*  
*May we extend our deepest sympathy to all of you during these*  
*times.*  
*With thoughts and prayers be with you.*

*J.Normand Jutras and Family*

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**Norm Jutras** - August 23, 2018 at 12:05 PM

CC

“ <https://www.gofundme.com/tom-champion-memorial-tree-fund>

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**Christa Champion** - August 23, 2018 at 08:23 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the*  
*family of Thomas F. Champion.*



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August 23, 2018 at 08:22 AM

CC

“ **HELP PLANT TREES IN TOM'S MEMORY**

*In Tom's last months, he & Hilde picked out Oak Hill Cemetery as their final resting place. They really felt the deep peacefulness of the older parts of the cemetery, with its beautiful old oak, beech and maple trees. Tom wanted to know that later generations will be able to enjoy the power and grace of mature trees near their site also (which is in a newer section). The caretaker explained that they are always in the process of planting new trees, as they receive donations. In lieu of flowers, please help us plant trees in Oak Hill Cemetery in Tom's memory. You can donate to the Tom Champion Memorial Tree Fund on the GoFundMe page, or you can send a check payable to "Oak Hill Cemetery / Tom's Tree Fund" to Hilde Champion, 12 Rawson Hill Road, Newburyport MA 01950.*



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**Christa Champion** - August 23, 2018 at 08:19 AM