



## Mr. Thomas J. Blalock

January 31, 1945 - February 21, 2023

Mr. Thomas J. Blalock, of Pittsfield, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, shortly after his 78th birthday. Born in Phillipsburg, NJ, on January 31, 1945, the son of the late James and Jane Bowers Blalock, he graduated from Wilson Borough High School in Easton, PA, with the class of 1962. Tom earned his BS in Electrical Engineering in 1966 from Lafayette College, and would later, in 1970, obtain a Master's degree in Power Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

In his earlier career, Tom held various positions throughout General Electric in Pittsfield. He worked as a Development Engineer in their High Voltage Laboratory, a (Computer) Systems Engineer in the Power Transformer Department, and a Test Engineer in the Large Transformer Operation. Tom also worked at Berkshire Community College in their theater department as an instructor and as technical director.

Taking an early retirement in the late 1990's after his position at BCC, he periodically assisted local theater groups with lighting and backstage rigging activities. His close friendship with the late Robert Boland beginning in the mid 1970's resulted in his involvement in theater and love of theater lighting. He worked very closely with Mr. Boland to promote the restoration of the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, and in particular the documentation of the 1912 stage switchboard, which was ultimately restored and displayed in the theatre lobby.

Tom had a particular fondness for research, especially early twentieth century electric power installations and equipment (“Industrial Archaeology”). He had over 20 articles dealing with early electric power published in the “Power and Energy Magazine”, as well as a 5-part series on the electrical power system of Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem PA published in the “Industry Applications Magazine” both electrical engineering trade magazines. He also authored a self-published book on the History of GE Large Power Transformer Plant at Pittsfield MA.

Tom is survived by his siblings, Nancy Bowman-Blalock (Roger), Robert Blalock (Winnie), and Susan Blalock, as well as one niece and two nephews. Tom was also blessed with 9 great nieces and nephews.

Funeral Notice:

Calling hours for Mr. Thomas J. Blalock will be Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 11 am to 1 pm at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home in Pittsfield, 220 East Street, Pittsfield MA 01201. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Berkshire Community College Foundation Scholarship Fund in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **15**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield

220 East St.

Pittsfield, MA 01201

(413) 445-4064

[info@dwyerfuneral.com](mailto:info@dwyerfuneral.com)

<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Tom and I worked together, at GE, for many years. It was difficult to keep in touch with him with his refusal to "get on line". Said he worked with computers all his life and refused to enter the digital age. I was just getting ready to send him a letter through snail mail so we could meet up when I came to Pittsfield this summer. I am really sorry he is gone.

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**James Heil** - May 05, 2023 at 03:11 PM

MA

“ Tom was a big part of our family. We spent many holidays together eating good dinners and having much fun. He saw my children grow, graduate from high school and college and celebrated all with us. Tom shared a part in our lives and even flew to California after we made that big move! I will miss our phone calls and I have lost my only contact left in my hometown, Pittsfield. Tom complimented my brother Bob's artistic talents with his technical attributes. We all miss you Tom.

*Mary Ellen Boland Ames*

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**Mary Ellen Ames** - April 05, 2023 at 02:45 PM

BW

“ Bob and Win purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mr. Thomas J. Blalock.



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**Bob and Win** - March 29, 2023 at 07:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas J. Blalock.*



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March 23, 2023 at 02:09 PM



“ *Tom, in his own quiet way, was a key mover behind the restoration and effective stage operation of the Colonial Theatre. He and Bob were a force, but one cloaked in velvet.*

*Many will miss your wry humor and brilliant mind.*

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**Dave Fleming** - March 22, 2023 at 11:28 PM



“ *Thom was always ready to open his home to a friend, a home filled with warmth and laughter. He will be missed.*

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**Joe Grabowski** - March 20, 2023 at 08:36 AM



“ *Tom - I am grateful that you were able to live your life, right up until the last moments, on your terms.*

*We've been exchanging monthly letters for what - five or six years now? (yours always in longhand because you refused to email :) and I'm not ready for that exchange to end. I always appreciated your observations, musings and occasional rantings. But you missed Bob terribly and I have to believe that you're both together again.*

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**Miriam Kitmacher** - March 19, 2023 at 11:35 AM

DD

“ I will never forget Tom's warmth. He cared deeply about others, and had the technical expertise to help make the house on East Street that he shared with Bob Boland into a unique home. My wife Linda and I have fond memories of the trifle that always appeared at their end-of-the-year parties and of our occasional visits after we left for Connecticut in the late eighties.

Tom was committed to the theater program ... theatre programme? ... at Berkshire Community College and remembered its students, staying in touch with many of them.

He was a lovely man, it was a privilege to know him, and I miss him.

Jonathan M. Daube

BCC president, 1978-1987

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**Dr. Jonathan m. Daube** - March 16, 2023 at 10:58 AM