

**Rev. Thorwald Torgersen**

Rev. Thorwald Torgersen, 69, of Independence Township, died Aug. 5, at home surrounded by his family.

Born Dec. 16, 1931 in Rahway, he was the son of the late Thorwald and Carrie Clarke Torgersen.

He lived in Independence Township for 23 years, coming from Budd Lake.

He was a minister in the Northern New Jersey Methodist Conference before retiring in 1995 after serving 26 years at the Drakestown United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the Order of St. Luke, a liturgical order. Currently, he was a member of the Free Union Methodist Church in Great Meadows.

He was involved in many community activities including his standing as an Exempt Fireman with the Budd Lake, Flanders, Schooley's Mountain, Long Branch, Mays Landing and Almonesson Fire Departments and Rescue Squads. As a certified elementary teacher in New Jersey, he taught within the Mt. Olive school system, served on the West Morris Board of Education, and the Mt. Olive Juvenile Board.

He was an avid reader and collector of history and railroad memorabilia. He served as President of the Society for Industrial Archeology, Roebling Chapter and was also a member of the Kennebunk Trolley Museum and Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Janet (Amann); his

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children, Linda and Robert Morgan of Independence, Deborah and William Mills of Budd Lake, Donna and Tom Allen of Fenton, Michigan and Stephen and Deb Torgersen of Kingston Springs, Tenn.; seven grandchildren, Michael, Timothy, Dawn, Erika, Bryana, Brian and Stephanie; and three great-grandchildren, Ty, Kayla and Toby.

He was preceded in death by his son, John Mark Torgersen.

Services were held at the Drakestown United Methodist Church in Budd Lake, with Jim Craig of Free Union Methodist Church officiating.

Interment was in Hackettstown Union Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Cochran Funeral Home in Hackettstown.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum,

Sheepscot Station, Alna, Maine 04535.

The family would like to thank the Independence Police and Rescue Squad, Cochran Funeral Home, as well as their many friends and family for their help and support.