



Air Force
Communications Agency

Thomas Royston Lawall
Airman First Class U.S. Air Force
29 August 1952 – 28 August 1956

Thomas was born on 14 May 1933 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter, his father purchased a pharmacy in Swedesboro, New Jersey, and moved the family there. From 1940 to 1946 Thomas attended grade school in Swedesboro. He then moved to Conklin, New York, to live with his uncle. He attended Binghamton North High School in Binghamton, New York, and graduated in 1951. After attending Broome County Technical School in Binghamton he enlisted in the Air Force as a Basic Airman in Syracuse, New York, on 29 August 1952. He attended basic training at Sampson Air Force Base in Geneva, New York, for three months after which he was sent to F.E. Warren Air Force Base at Cheyenne, Wyoming, for advanced training as a Communications Center Specialist. He left Cheyenne in October 1953 to serve in the 2044th Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS) Military Air Transport Service, 1800th AACS Wing at Fort Meyer, Virginia, where he served in the Pentagon Communications Center until he was discharged on 28 August 1956 in Arlington, Virginia. After he left the Air Force, Thomas returned home to the Lehigh Valley and enrolled in Muhlenberg College in Allentown, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics in 1960 while serving four years in the Air Force Reserves. He did graduate work in nuclear physics at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, from 1960 to 1962 and taught there as a Physics Teaching Assistant. Thomas married **Sue Rebecca Walker** (born 12 December 1938) in Conklin, New York, on June 18, 1960. He and Sue initially made their home in Catasauqua and then moved to Shimerville in Upper Milford Township, Pennsylvania, in April 1967. They lived there until March 2006, after which they settled in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. After completing his graduate work at Lehigh, Thomas went to work for Fuller Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, from 1962 until he retired in 1998. During his career with Fuller, Thomas was granted 11 U.S. Patents pertaining to various chemical processes, and authored technical articles that were published in international journals. Thomas and Sue raised two daughters, **Rebecca** and **Leanne**, and a son, **Daniel**. Thomas is a Thirty Third Degree Mason. He is a member of The American Legion, Post No. 215 in Catasauqua. Thomas and Sue became members of the Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, both serving as Elders, Deacons, and Sunday School Teachers. Thomas's parents were **William Harland Lawall Sr.** (14 May 1894 – April 1966) and **Sarah Helen Cuddy** (7 August 1900 – 21 November 1940). Thomas's two brothers, **William Harland Lawall Jr.** (U.S. Army 1948–52) and **Peter Lawall** (U.S. Navy 1954–58) are also veterans. His father was an Army veteran of WW1.