



Thomas "Tom" Butterfield

February 11, 1946 - June 26, 2021

Thomas "Tom" Butterfield passed away peacefully on June 26, 2021 at the age of 75. Born on February 11, 1946 and raised in Merrick, New York, Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Marcella Butterfield. He is survived by his wife Irene, three daughters, Christin (Wayne), Alex (Malcolm), and Lauren (Matt), grandson Carson and two siblings Christi and Patti (Carol).

Tom honored faith, family and friends in his life. Tom was dedicated to the Blacksburg community from the moment he began attending Virginia Tech as a member of the Corps of Cadets. Tom remained at Tech after graduation and served as the Art Director in Squires Student Center, establishing the Perspective Art Gallery in 1970. An artist and a craftsman, Tom used his talents to create a variety of artwork including the Town of Blacksburg logo and the liturgical furnishings for St. Mary's Catholic Church. His longstanding commitment to the Catholic community included both the Newman Community and St. Mary's Catholic Church where he helped establish the Men's Bible Study. Tom enjoyed kayaking with close friends on the rivers of South Carolina (the Low Country).

The family will be having a private service. A celebration of Tom's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests offerings be made in his honor to the charity of your choice. Online condolences may be shared with the family on McCoy Funeral Home's website at www.mccoysfuneralhome.com.

com.

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Tom and I both graduated high school together and we played in a band together for a few years before leaving high school. little did I know that we both wound up going to Virginia Tech together. Sorry to hear about his death. I hadn't seen him since 2001 when I was traveling down to North Carolina and he was so kind that he gave me one of his paintings.

Bill Schmitz - June 08, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ Working in Squires with Tom was such a joy. Always laughing and making others laugh. I'm lucky to have one of his prints of McCoy Falls. Rest in peace, Tom.

Debi McCoy - July 22, 2021 at 09:05 PM

JN

“ We're sending wishes of strength and peace to a special family. We will miss Tom's smiling face on College Avenue at the Friday Henderson Lawn Concerts for sure. We're so glad we have two of Tom's prints on our walls.
Jan and Dave Notter

Jan and Dave Notter - July 16, 2021 at 08:03 PM

PB

“ My Uncle Tom was an amazing man. He could light up a room with just his smile. I love you. You will be greatly missed.

Patty Butterfield - July 14, 2021 at 07:53 PM



“ *Durning my time working in Squires (78-84), Tom became a great friend and mentor. We spent many dinners together. My thoughts and prayers remain with Tom's family & friends. One of Tom's prints hangs in my parents home reminding me of Tom, the New River & Blacksburg. I look forward to joining Tm in heaven when my time comes! I'm sure Tom will greet me with a smile and a great story. Peace be with y'all!*

James Dickerson - July 14, 2021 at 08:59 AM

TG

“ *My sincere condolences on the passing of your husband, father, and grandfather. Tom painted a wonderful picture for me when I left Virginia Tech as vice president for student affairs in 1995. He personalized it by my lifelong interest in the American circus and depicted the staff that worked for me in Burruss Hall; Debbie Falls, Betty Eaton, Lanny Cross, Roland Wheeler, and Barbara Pendergrass. I have displayed it in each every home I have had through the years. He will be so missed by so many.*

Tom Goodale - July 12, 2021 at 10:32 AM

RT

“ *I am very sorry for your loss. Thinking of the family. May Thomas rest in peace.
Please tell Christin that I asked about her.
Sincerely, Dr. Richard Tate*

Richard Tate - July 11, 2021 at 03:39 PM

MM

“ *I would like to wish the family a lot of strength through this road and my condolences from out belgium.*

millske mills - July 11, 2021 at 10:58 AM

GS

“ I can't believe Tom is gone but never gone from our hearts and memories. Tom was an incredible artist and was an even better person. Lots of people may think they're artists, but Tom was the real deal. Personally, he influenced me with how I saw art. I credit him with my thoughts of what good artwork is. I was lucky enough to work with him in the Va. Tech craft shop. Tom was the director there, and he was always helpful to all the students who sought his help or opinions. Tom was also a prolific joke teller. He was always tireless and upbeat. I will miss him so! I am positive Tom is contributing to the beauty of heaven with this artwork. I'm brokenhearted that he's gone. I am a better person for knowing him and his wonderful family.

Gerry Sims - July 09, 2021 at 10:28 AM

LB

Thank you so much for your kind words, and for sharing your memories of him. It is comforting to know how many lives he touched while here with us. 💜💜💜

Lauren Butterfield - July 10, 2021 at 02:54 AM

JM

The operators and staff at BT ACCESS wish to send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Butterfield. We felt a great honor in assisting Tom and his family with his transportation needs as best we could. He was a gracious and gentle man, and his family have always been a pleasure to work with.
BT ACCESS Operators and Staff

Jenny L. Mills - July 12, 2021 at 06:46 AM

RB

*Tom was one of the most colorful, talented and "just plain wonderful" friends I've ever known. We were Rats together in the Corps of Cadets in 1964! You've never heard a read Thud until you've seen a BIG BIG man jump out of a second story window down onto the roof of the unit day room...as Tom did to escape being caught by an upper-classman for playing his guitar during evening study hours. What a great fellow cadet and personal friend. I did have the opportunity and honor to visit him in his home after attending a football game many many years ago. He will be most fondly remembered by all who knew him in B Squadron. My condolences to the family. Please know he was loved by those who knew him. God Bless You.
Roger Brown '68*

Roger Brown - July 15, 2021 at 01:52 PM

SD

Rick and I were so fortunate to get to know Tom. What a lovely man who always had a smile.

Susan and Rick DiSalvo - July 15, 2021 at 07:49 PM

GF

Saddened to hear of Tom's passing. Only knew him well in grammar school at Cure of Ars and lived a couple of streets away from Tom's home on Bushwick. He was a gentle, fun-loving boy whom I liked very much. Always the tallest kid in the class I recall Sr. Mary Ferrer telling him to kneel so she could get a good smack on him. And that was VERY unusual for Tom. Was pleased to learn many years later that he and Irene Shaper got married. Class people in my recollection. Gerald FitzGerald

Gerald T FitzGerald - July 24, 2021 at 02:02 PM

LC

*how saddened i am to learn of Toms passing...we were class mates in the Industrial Arts Dept at Va Tech and graduated together. we once played in the same rock band for a special gig. In recent years I would see Tom shopping at Krogers and we would chat and catch up on former class mates. Although we did not see each other often - I will miss him knowing he is no longer around.
Lindsay Coleman Blacksburg
Jan 27 2022*

Lindsay Coleman - January 27, 2022 at 12:22 AM

PB

Tom it has been a year now since you passed away. I think of you every day and miss you just as often. I want to thank you for being the best brother anyone could ever ask for. Thank you for helping me make Blacksburg my home away from home. Thank you for all the memories...from when we were kids living at home to summers visiting you in Blacksburg. I will always hold all those special memories in my heart. Until we meet again in heaven...I love you my brother!

Pat Butterfield - June 27, 2022 at 10:44 AM

BS

What a wonderful kind person he was and he and I and two other people played in a band during high school to earn money..wonderful times and so sad he has passed.

Bill Schmitz - June 08, 2024 at 04:00 PM



I was thinking of my days at Tech and reminiscing about my work at Squires Student Center. I was so sorry to see Tom passed away. Tom was always so kind to me and we would meet on the weekends at Squires to watch movies with my daughter and his girls. He was such a loving Father and Husband. We would see each other after Sunday mass at the chapel. I too was blessed to have art work that Tom did for me in pen and ink of a run aground sailboat. I've always cherished that piece of work. I gave birth to my Son while a student and working at Tech. Tom was always such a kind gentleman...a gentle giant. I'll remember him wearing his bib overalls and smoking a pipe. Thank you for the memories Tom. Until we meet again.

Ellen St Clair - July 08, 2024 at 03:32 AM