



Thomas Edward "Tom" Carpenter

September 13, 1941 - January 13, 2021

Thomas E. "Tom" Carpenter

LECANTO, FL – Major Thomas E. "Tom" Carpenter, USAF (ret), 79, of Lecanto, FL entered into rest January 13, 2021. He was born in Ravenna, OH on September 13, 1941. His parents were the late Edward and Charlotte Carpenter. He retired after twenty-one years of service with the Air Force and a second time after completing more than fifteen years civilian employment at the Army's Battle Command Battle Laboratory at Fort Gordon, GA where he was a senior computer scientist. He received a B.S. from the University of Oklahoma and an M.S. from Purdue University. He lived many places including San Antonio, TX; the Philippines; Norman, OK; West Lafayette, IN; Colorado Springs, CO; Marin County, CA; Montgomery, AL; Augusta, GA; Gainesville, FL, Summerfield, FL, and Lecanto, FL. He was an avid fan of Oklahoma University football, basketball, and women's basketball. He enjoyed square dancing, reading, and spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of the Unity of Citrus County church and often said he had a close and personal relationship with God. He authored the book "Angel Talks: Unraveling the Mysteries of God" and traveled the southeast to other churches giving the Sunday morning talk and facilitating spiritual workshops. He was married four times to: Gayle McDonald Stephenson, St. Augustine, FL, with whom he had three children; the late Nancilu Dennis McClurkin, Tallassee, AL, with whom he had one son; Alice Glenn, Montgomery, AL; and June Porter Byers, North Augusta, SC. He is survived by his son, Donald and wife Lisa, Jacksonville, FL; daughter, Gerri Ann Stewart, St. Augustine, FL; daughter, Leslie Jean Carpenter and husband Marc Trimboli, St. Augustine, FL; son, Brad Carpenter and wife, Leshia, Asheville, NC; granddaughters Lauren Stewart, Elkton, FL; Haleigh Owens, St. Augustine, FL; Kyndal Stewart, Elkton, FL; Jessica Stewart, St. Augustine, FL; Noelle Owens, St. Augustine, FL, Grace Carpenter, Jacksonville, FL and Anne Carpenter, Asheville, NC; great grandson Devin Stewart, Elkton, FL; and sisters Judy Perrine, Houston, TX, and LuAnn Sage, Akron, OH. A memorial service will be held ... "We must not look afar to see the Christ, for He is ever near at hand. He is always within us."

Comments



“ To Tom's family and friends:

I met Tom 54 years ago as new students at The University of Oklahoma. We were both in the US Air Force; young and with very young children. After graduation and OTS, we both went to Purdue University for graduate studies in computer science. We shared classes and an office. After a couple of short separations via the military, we ended up signing in the same day in Montgomery, AL to work at the Air Force Data Systems Design Center. In time, we both retired from the U.S. Air Force, and ultimately following his stint in Civil Service in Augusta, GA and my teaching at a couple of universities in Alabama and Florida, we found ourselves both "retired" in Florida. Coincidence? I think not.

There is no bigger OU fan than Tom. Strangely, it was when we were both in our 60s that we started attending our first OU football games in person - both in Norman, OK and on the road (TCU in Fort Worth). Tom was the quintessential Boomer Sooner! Recently (a few weeks ago), we shared the OU - Iowa State football game at his apartment in Gainesville. Tom was clearly in distress at that time and mentioned that life was extremely difficult for him. This was very apparent. I knew it would not be long until he was called home. When we parted (he could not rise from his chair), I hugged him mightily and we jointly expressed our mutual love.

We had maintained a close relationship throughout these many years - through both our happy times and our sad times (and we both had them), but always together. I love this guy like a brother, and it brings me much pain that we will no longer physically be together. But as Gerri said, Tom's pain is gone and he is with almighty God in heaven. We shall meet again someday.

My best personal wishes to Gail, Donald, Gerri, Leslie, and Brad. I had seen them all but many years ago. Also to Marciah who was at a minimum a close confidant in their church. He always spoke very affectionately about her.

It is difficult at the moment as I gaze upon the accompanying picture of Tom and briefly reflect upon our families, our travels, the classes at OU and Purdue, numerous texts during football games, and more, and to know he is now gone.

Tom was a good, blessed man who will be sorely missed. As others, I shall grieve for him, but I know his pain is gone and my story is simply that I know he is energetically leading a chorus of angels - the ones with whom he spoke - together in the OU fight song!

So long for now, buddy!

Bob Roggio



“ Thank you Bob...Tom loved you equally...a life long brother of the heart

Marcia - January 17 at 05:12 PM



“ I met Tom when I was just a small child playing with Donald in Ravenna. Tom was a true friend and a great support to my family for over 50 years. When my mom passed away, he left his home and came and spent over a week with my dad to provide support. My dad was so happy to have his good friend help take the hurt away. We still laugh at Tom saying “Jim, if you never do another thing in your life, get rid of that flip phone”. Dad got a new smart phone and enjoyed taking and sharing photos, texting, listening to Apple Music and exploring all the new technology. When my dad was signing into hospice, he text Tom saying I need you buddy. That same evening Tom was in the hospital room with us providing support to both my dad and myself. Tom, Dad and I shared a lot of memories of their fun times in high school, mom and dad meeting each other, close friendships that they still have and also a common interest in music. After dad died, Tom stayed in touch with me, text me every week and called from time to time. When it came time to think about hospice for himself, he contacted me and shared that disease was progressing and he was thinking of hospice for himself. He said he had done everything in life that he wanted to do and the last I talked to him just wanted the pain to go away. He loved his family and all his wonderful friends. Now his pain is gone. Rest in peace my friend. We will miss you. Debbie (Grohe) Rolf.

Debbie Rolf - January 17 at 09:00 PM



“ RIP.....God bless you always...our thoughts and our prayers are with you all ALWAYS XXXOOO....Tom you are loved and will be missed by all those who were bkessed enough to have ever know you...Prayers for the family!!!!

DANNY & LINDA DRAWDY - January 17 at 11:26 AM



“ Just wanted to send condolences to immediate family. Terica M Carpenter-Davenport

Terica M Carpenter-Davenport - January 16 at 09:04 PM



“ Tom will be so missed I remember him so well he was my classmate in school and we had a lot of fun talks even talking in class when we weren't supposed to. Love and condolences to the family.



Sylvia Cousins - January 16 at 04:19 PM