



Thomas H Hemphill

November 22, 1948 - June 3, 2023

Thomas Houston Hemphill, Tom, died totally unexpectedly at home on June 3, 2023, in Sanford, FL, at the age of 74.

Tom is survived by his wife, Judith, 6 children: Jennifer Hemphill Montgomery of New Braunfels, TX, Thomas Kurian Hemphill of Orlando, FL, Heidi Shireen Hemphill of Wilton, IA, and their mother, Barbara Hemphill Taylor of Raleigh, NC; William Jeremiah Hemphill of Sanford, FL, John-Mark Emmanuel Hemphill of Irvine, CA., Jacob Houston Hemphill of Atlanta, GA, and their mother, Cecile Montemayor Hemphill; and two step-children, Charles Samuel Bailow of Westbrook, CT, and Abigail Ashley Bailow of San Diego, CA; 3 grandchildren: William Jeremiah Hemphill (Jay) and his sister Margaret Olivia Hemphill, both of Sanford, Madisyn Montgomery of New Braunfels, TX, and 2 step-grandchildren, Samson Paul Magnani Bailow and Gracie Francheska Bailow of Westbrook, CT. Tom is survived also by his siblings James Higley Hemphill of Dallas, TX, John Charles Hemphill and his wife Linda of Galloway, OH, Margaret Jean Hemphill- Wysong and her husband Barth of Zanesville, OH, and Robert Davidson Hemphill of Des Moines, IA. He is survived also by his cousins Wes and Todd Shutt and a significant number of loving nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his brother William Loehr Hemphill of Arlington, VA, and his sister Doris Ruth Hemphill of LeClaire, IA.

Tom was born on November 22, 1948, in Clarinda, IA, to William Crozier

Hemphill and Margaret Jean Loehr Hemphill. He graduated from Clarinda High School in 1967 and earned a B.S in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska in Omaha. Tom had a varied, challenging, and fascinating career of service, including 35 years working internationally. While living in Russia, the Philippines, Grenada (West Indies) and India twice, he managed numerous not-for-profit programs including refugee relief, health care, disaster response, organizational development, poverty alleviation, nonprofit management training, agricultural development, and international marketing.

As Executive Director of Heifer International, which assists families worldwide to improve family nutrition and income through raising livestock, he guided the organization through a major financial crisis and restructuring. Tom also assisted in the creation of Bothar, a similar organization in Ireland.

Since 2001, he has served in the US as Executive Director for Ability 1st in Tallahassee, for Sancta Sophia Seminary in Tahlequah, OK, and for Tulsa Global Alliance in Tulsa, OK. Starting in June of 2017, he worked as a pharmacy driver for Hy-Vee in Windsor Heights, IA. People all over the world loved and admired him. He moved to Sanford last July in order to be able to spend more time as a grandfather.

A memorial service will be held and live streamed at 3:30 pm on June 25 th at the DeGusipe Funeral Home in Sanford, FL. Click link here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfZ484dvCYc>

Flowers and condolences may be sent to Judith Hemphill at 300 W. 12 th Street, Sanford, FL, 32771, or to Jeremiah and Danielle Hemphill, 716 Cypress Avenue, Sanford, 32771.

The family requests that if you're interested, donations in his name be made to

MainSprings, the Janelda Batchelor Foundation for Children, a perfectly extraordinary agency working in Tanzania, started by a remarkable man we met in Tulsa.

<https://mainsprings.givecloud.co/annual-appeal>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **25**. 3:30 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Sanford Chapel

905 Laurel Ave

Sanford, FL 32771

(407) 695-2273

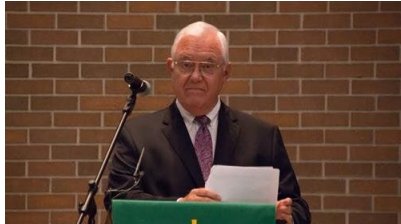
todd@degusipe.com

<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas H Hemphill*



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - June 21, 2023 at 08:49 AM

KO

“ *It was a lovely service, Jude. It's obvious that Tom was a much loved man. He is and will continue to be well remembered.*

Kathy E Otting - June 25, 2023 at 04:31 PM

CM

“ *Clara M. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas H Hemphill.*



Clara M. - June 16, 2023 at 01:14 PM

JH

“ *Uncle Tom, you had the sweetest attitude and baritone of all time*

JH - June 14, 2023 at 08:09 PM

HR

“ I met Tom in 1979. In time, he became my best friend and more. I could count on him being there for me when I needed him. I was very happy when he met and married Judith. It didn't take away from our friendship at all. It just gave me two friends! I miss him already even though we didn't see each other that often. We did talk on the phone. I intend to be there for Judith whenever she needs me. I love her, just as I do him. ❤️

Helen Roberts - June 14, 2023 at 02:44 PM

MH

“ Judith, Lovely obituary. We will see you in person, soon!

Margaret Hemphill-Wysong - June 14, 2023 at 10:45 AM

JC

“ Tom was a great man. I had the fortune of knowing Tom as a coworker at HyVee, where his radiant positive attitude brought so many smiles every day. He was quick to offer help any time I needed it, and for that, I am forever grateful. While being a few years my senior, he always brightened my day by greeting me as "Uncle Justin". Tom truly was a great man who touched countless lives, and I am priveleged to call him my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Judith, his family, and his friends.

Justin Carrothers - June 13, 2023 at 10:59 PM

MM

“ I met Tom about 6-7 years ago working for Hy Vee. I was the manager in the Starbucks department there and every so often, Tom would stop by and get a cup of coffee. He was always the happiest guy in the store and his positivity was contagious. He would always have some little saying to brighten your day or make you smile, even when just walking by. I never got to meet his children or grandchildren, but if they are anything like Tom, the world is a better place because of people like that. He will be genuinely and sorely missed by those who knew him.

Maren Malone - June 13, 2023 at 08:10 PM

JU

When I first fell for Tom, I thought he was the sun, moon, and stars. I gradually came to understand that was neither healthy nor accurate.

And so we began the process of evolving together through a good many marvelous adventures, plus a few difficult ones, and he settled into being my friend, counsellor, and companion—whether at home or traveling, my provider, chauffeur, editor, and lover, in every case in a league of his own. In addition to all that, he has given me a wondrous family to be part of.

I am grieving his loss, yes, but I am also flooded with gratitude for the time we had together and all the loving energy coming my way. And now, of course, he has become a part of the sun, moon, and stars.

Your Judith

judithwhemphill - June 16, 2023 at 02:45 PM

JU

Judith,

I am so truly heartbroken by your message. I cannot believe it. Travis and I were just talking about you both last week with some friends. I will definitely keep you and your entire family in our prayers and cannot thank you enough for thinking of Mainsprings out of all the wonderful and different organizations you all worked with over the years.

As you know more than anyone, Tom was an incredible person, leader, and friend- and I truly looked up to him in so many ways. I can't imagine how tough of a time this is, but I just wanted to reach out and say how sorry I am, thank you, and you and Tom will both be forever in my thoughts and prayers.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help and I would love to attend the virtual memorial service later this month.

Lots of love to you and everyone affected by this awful turn of events.
C

*Chris Gates
Founder & CEO
www.mainsprings.org*

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 12:20 PM

JU

Tom's daughter Heidi writes: He's not gone...he will always be with us all in spirit no matter what and no matter wherever we are, he can see everyone of us in our family all at the same time!!! And he will be with us on July 4th!!!

Just to let you know that you are not a widow, you are still a wife to Tom Hemphill with wings.

Mike Wehage adds, He will sure be dearly missed.

They will be at the service from Wapello, IA

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 12:24 PM

JU

There are many loving messages from his co-workers in Iowa: Jessica Cashman, Sara Jo Rohlfson. head of the floral department, Edina and Tim, fellow driver Ron and his wife Deb, Nicole Lancelotti, and more, all in the same vein as the first two messages posted from Justin and Maren.

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 12:31 PM

JU

Although he had only been with them for three weeks, here is the message from his local employer:

Hello, Mrs. Hemphill. My name is Melissa Parziale and I'm the Director of Human Resources Team Solutions Dental.

I wanted to take a moment to offer our sincere condolences over Tom's passing. Though he wasn't here at TSD very long, he had already made such a positive impact on many of us with his kindness, sense of humor, and wonderful personality. He was a gem and we are all saddened by this news. Our thoughts are with you as you navigate this difficult time.

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 12:34 PM

JU

We moved into a house that is 90 years old, and we simply could not have managed it without the help of a most delightful and gifted handyman, whose wife also appeared, bringing us donuts and washing the pollen off our windows. They were the first to send flowers.

Here is their message:

Our sincerest condolences to you and your family. Tom was an incredible person and an absolute pleasure to be around. With love, Alex and Katie Venegas

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 12:42 PM

JU

Some recurring themes:

His obituary is absolutely perfect.

You two have had an amazing time together.

No words can touch this type of loss.

Tom was larger than life, and I am so very thankful to have known him.

I have been in disbelief all day and can't fathom what you're feeling right now.

Hold on to memories and family and friends.

Cry because you miss him; smile because you knew him.

Tom's strong booming energy will always be around you.

Our Sarasota yoga instructor called him "such a wonderful, talented, unique and intelligent being."

Our Tahlequah chiropractor says, "He was a great man." The Tulsa publicist he hired: "a special soul."

Our astrologist: "He had an inquisitive mind and an indomitable spirit that warmed my heart."

Other dear friends: "I know how deeply you loved him, and I cannot imagine how you must feel."

Sorrow is not forever. Love is.

I imagine his Upstairs Team rejoicing to have Tom back with them!

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 01:01 PM

JU

I'm so sorry, Judith. Arthur (my remarried ex!) and I were both very fond of him. Diane

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 02:57 PM

JU

One of the people who stayed with us in Tulsa was a young man from Pakistan whose father died while Rashid was with us. Tom was so gentle and compassionate with him that Rashid "adopted" us.

His message:

What... I don't believe it...I was out of city, came last night very late. I cried for him. He was so special.

Ahhh God, I am shocked and speechless. I became orphan again. He was my father, my friend, my mentor, my ideal, my secret-keeper.

I wish I could be with you. This is the most difficult time specially for you. A big long hug for you.

We will miss him. May his soul rest in peace. Rashid Abdullah

judithwhemphill - June 17, 2023 at 03:07 PM

JU

*In the beauty of memories left behind,
in the lives touched and changed,
in the gifts of wisdom shared...
those we love live on, always.*

judithwhemphill - June 20, 2023 at 09:25 PM

JU

The world was profoundly blessed by Tom. His appreciation of the dignity of each person meant his work made the lives of countless people incalculably better. They may never have known anything of him personally, yet his dedication to their empowerment will continue to unfold through the generations. Joan

"A luminous light remains where a beautiful soul has passed." Antoine Boyeua

judithwhemphill - June 20, 2023 at 09:33 PM