



Thomas Sanford Hamblen

December 20, 1943 - June 7, 2014

Thomas Sanford Hamblen, age 70 of Manassas, Virginia died on Saturday, June 7, 2014 at Novant Health Prince William Medical Center.

He was preceded in death by his son William Zebulon Hamblen.

He is survived by his wife Irene P. Hamblen, his son Jonathan F. Hamblen and wife Alicia of Winston Salem, NC; his brother William D. Hamblen and his grandchildren Fox David Hamblen, Lucius Hamblen and Gus Hamblen.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, VA on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 10:30 AM followed by interment in Stonewall Memory Gardens.

Flowers will be accepted or donations may be made to Catholic Relief Services.

Cemetery Details

Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

Tribute Wall

CW

“ We, The Wagoner,s lived next door to Tom,s parents Bill and Courtaney .Can always remember how happy he was and that wonderful laugh. He was a special human being.

cynthia wagoner - August 02, 2014 at 10:24 AM

AO

“ Tom remembered things about you that you'd only told him once. His laugh was amazing - and he laughed a lot. He made me feel like his home was my own, always. I spent countless hours in that house in my teens, and I will remember that always. Peace to you, Tom. I will imagine you with Zeb, both of you content, and maybe bickering about something over a cup of coffee.

Allison Ober - June 11, 2014 at 08:21 PM

LD

“ Tom will be missed....and his wonderful laughter will be remembered. As I read through the lovingly shared comments of those who worked with Tom, I cannot disagree with their warm descriptions, fond memories, and affirmations about Tom's care for other people - both clients and staff. I first met Tom when I joined the DFS staff in 1984. Like others, I received a hearty welcome, a warning that the work would be challenging, and the promise of his support - always. Bless you, Tom. You touched many lives and made a difference. Mission fulfilled.
Lauren Donahoo

Lauren Donahoo - June 11, 2014 at 08:09 PM

MD

“ I met Tom in 1983 when I started working in Alexandria shortly after I had arrived in this country. He was passionate and compassionate about his work and a *little crazy*.....I enjoyed his sense of humour, his stories and jokes and I know he is telling the priest, the minister and the rabbi story somewhere!

Margaret Dhillon - June 11, 2014 at 07:50 PM

KF

“ Tom was one of the first people I met when I began working at the Department in 1979. He greeted me in his usual warm, smart, funny and delightful way. I thought that if everyone here is like Tom Hamblen this will be a great place to work. Throughout the years I learned that Tom was not only a gifted social worker but a wonderful human being in every way. In his kind and modest way he cared for everyone he met. He will be greatly missed but he left us so much to remember him by.

Kathy Froyd

Kathy Froyd - June 11, 2014 at 03:09 PM

PC

“ I first met Tom via phone in 1985. At that time I was calling from California, looking to move to VA, and was randomly calling hotlines, looking for vacancies. Tom spoke to me and was so generous, inviting me for an interview anytime I could get there. I remember that interview, riding up the elevator with him. That's the first time I experienced that booming laugh and great sense of humor. Even tho I was actually hired by a different supervisor, I know it was Tom who got me in. Several years later I ended up working for him. He was the one who encouraged me to apply for a SWIII position, telling me it was a great opportunity to actually work with people, away from the typical beauracracy of the agency. He was right.....

Tom was a man of extremes, and he let you know it. Many of us have memories of Tom that were not always pleasant, but one thing about Tom that I learned was that he was a big enough man to admit when he was wrong, and to apologize if he had gotten out of line. I will always be greatfull to him for helping me through the years, the jokes, his laughter, his amazing insights into people and what made them tick. He was not a fan of knee-jerk reactions to complex situations, always trying to find less stressful ways to deal with the complicated lives of our clients. If Tom invested in someone, you knew he would work his heart out to help them. And he invested himself in many. Fairfax County is so much richer for having had Tom Hamblem working there, and a great number of families, who may never know it, have lost a champion. Wherever you are Tom, keep up the good fight.

Pam Carter - June 11, 2014 at 10:57 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Sanford Hamblen.*



June 11, 2014 at 09:46 AM



“ *My brother-in-law Tom-
One of the most jovial men I have known. Generous-a big heart,
with compassion for all living things.*

We talked of dogs, cooking and gardening, and he enjoyed them all.

He once asked me how to make gravy. After that he made it his own way. It was so bad that his dog, Stormy ran from the kitchen.

He was a wonderful big brother to my husband. They spoke everyday-not long- but every day.

We will miss him so very much.

Donna Hamblen

Donna Hamblen - June 10, 2014 at 08:03 PM

SR

“ After we moved to Northern Virginia in the 1980's, Tom hired my wife, Lou, in no small part because I was a Vietnam veteran, and so was he. Despite his war wounds, Tom had more energy, enthusiasm, and drive than people half his age. Lou loved working for him, and I enjoyed just being around him. He got me into his gun club, and we spent many enjoyable hours plinking at targets and discussing firearms. As his health declined these last few years, I enjoyed the opportunities to drive him to the gun range or down to Clark Bros. to chat with his friends at the gun shop. Wherever I took him, people were always delighted to see him. If Tom knew you, you were his friend, and vice versa. Hard to believe that big, generous heart and that boisterous laugh are now silent. We miss you, Tom. Big time...

Stuart Riddick

Stuart Riddick - June 10, 2014 at 07:32 PM

CW

“ I worked with Tom off and on through the years, and remember him as an ardent social worker and supervisor who brought great passion to his work and those around him. He was unforgettable in many ways, and I was sad to learn about his death. May you rest in peace, Tom.

Cathy Wetherby

Catherine Wetherby - June 10, 2014 at 11:26 AM

SA

“ Thomas was a wonderful friend and I am eternally grateful for the time I spent with him. He was definitely one of the most compassionate and caring people I have ever known. Tom made a significant difference in the lives of many people including the families and children he served, the friends and colleagues who worked with him, his neighbors and even strangers. Every time we went to lunch he became friends with the waiter or waitress and never ceased to amaze people by the stories he told. He will be missed and never forgotten. His laughter will follow me all the days of my life.

susan alexander - June 09, 2014 at 02:33 PM

WP

Thom was a warm and caring man who gave so much, of himself, to my children. He touched my heart with his generous sense of humor and his warm personality. I am deeply saddened by his death. Sending loving thoughts and prayers to all of the family

Waneen Post-Marks - June 09, 2014 at 04:17 PM

LD

Tom will be missed....and his wonderful laughter will be remembered. As I read through the lovingly shared comments of those who worked with Tom, I cannot disagree with their warm descriptions, fond memories, and affirmations about Tom's care for other people - both clients and staff. I first met Tom when I joined the DFS staff in 1984. Like others, I received a hearty welcome, a warning that the work would be challenging, and the promise of his support - always. Bless you, Tom. You touched many lives and made a difference. Mission fulfilled.

Lauren Donahoo

Lauren Donahoo - June 11, 2014 at 08:07 PM

TG

I found this post searching the net for Tom's address. I am saddened to hear his incredible laugh is silenced. I knew Tom in infantry OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia. We were in the 2nd platoon from the 23rd of August til the 17th of February, 1967. I never saw Tom again but thought the world of him and take some consolation that he was loved, appreciated and understood by friends and family. I send them all my very best thoughts. Tom was a good man. I envy the years you had with him.

Tom Garvey - January 29, 2016 at 07:19 PM