



Thomas Phelps Potter Sr.

July 20, 1938 - February 5, 2021

Thomas (Tom) Phelps Potter, Sr., age 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his home in Haymarket, VA, on Friday, February 5, 2021.

He is predeceased by his parents, Thomas Humphrey Phelps Potter and Millicent Leticia Sims Potter. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Ann Elizabeth Cornell Potter, sons Timothy E. (Kathryn) Potter of Warrenton, VA and Thomas Phelps Potter, Jr. (Connie) of Lovettsville, VA. He is also survived by six grandchildren: Bryan Potter of Warrenton, VA, Brenna Potter of Joppa, MD, Nicholas, Virginia, Andrew and Klara Potter of Lovettsville, VA. He will be missed by his four sisters-in-law: Claudia, Shirley, Carolyn and Brenda (Lee) as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins both in the United States and England.

Tom was born July 20, 1938 in Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, England. He immigrated with his parents to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island in New York Harbor on November 25, 1947. Tom grew up in Arlington, VA and graduated from Washington & Lee High School in 1956. He then attended two years of college at Shenandoah College; one year in Dayton, VA and one year at the Winchester, VA campus. Tom next attended Cumberland College in Williamsburg, KY for two years, completing undergraduate degree with some courses at the University of Kentucky in 1963. Finally, during his tenure with Pan Am, Tom received his Master's Degree as a Certified Travel Consultant from George Washington University.

Tom was drafted for service in the US Army in the summer of 1963 and

served on active duty for 11 months at Ft. Hood, TX with the 3rd Armor Division and 13 months in Southeast Asia in the 1st Cavalry Division. He then spent the next 4 years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Tom began his career in the travel industry in 1966 working for United Airlines. He went on to work for Trans Caribbean Airways (acquired by American Airlines in 1971). He then worked for National Airlines and Pan American World Airways over a period of 20 years. He enjoyed taking his travel agent colleagues on “familiarization trips” to London, behind the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe, China and countless other destinations around the world. During his Pan Am years he thoroughly enjoyed working with the USO as well as the USFL Washington Federals Football team with their travel needs. After the dissolution of Pan American Airlines in December 1991, Tom created Mid-Atlantic Travel Marketing in January 1992 and began representing Trafalgar Tours. Over the next 15 years he represented over 31 different travel companies which included Key Tours, Insight Tours, Contiki, Thrifty Rental Cars & Viking River cruises. After 41 years, Tom retired from the travel industry in 2007.

Tom was active in the Washington, DC Chapter of Bon Vivant, a travel club, where he served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. He was also a proud member of the Washington, DC SKAL Club.

Throughout his life, Tom was active in his community. He was a Coach for his boys’ various sport teams and was a role model for other young men in the Bailey’s Cross Roads, VA community. He was a member of the Vestry at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Bailey’s Cross Roads for 12 years and spearheaded a number of community outreach programs which reached hundreds of people in the community. He was a proud member of Grace Episcopal Church in The Plains, VA. He was also an ardent fan of all of the Washington, DC sport teams.

Thomas P. Potter, Sr. was a man who lived a robust, vibrant life and who went

by many names.

"Tom" leaves behind the love of his life of 54 years, Joyce. She is grieved with his passing, but knows he is no longer suffering and is with his Lord and Savior in Heaven. He was her favorite "Duckie" and she was his "Bear". They could pick on each other, but woe betide the person who would pick on either one of them! Their love endured all the various stages of life - all of the "for better or for worse" they said in their vows so many years ago. Their legacy of love is one of the biggest gifts they gave to their children and grandchildren.

"Dad" also leaves behind his sons, Tim and Tom, and their wives, Kathy and Connie. The lessons he gave each of us of love of country, true friendship, the importance of family and dedication to faith we will cleave to as we move forward in our journeys as parents, friends, and citizens of our communities.

Finally, his proudest legacy, what he lived for every day, his biggest pride and joy, "Pop" left behind six wonderful grandchildren; Bryan, Nick, Virginia, Brenna, Andrew and Klara. Each grandchild had a unique relationship with their Pop. He had a wonderful way of knowing everything that was going on in their lives and having a conversation with each of them. No detail was too small. He celebrated their accomplishments and interests. He was compassionate when it came to their struggles and disappointments. The "Grandkiddies" know, without a doubt, they are loved beyond measure, but they will miss their Pop.

His final notes we feel should be in quotes. "America is the greatest country in the world. The people are kind and generous. As an immigrant, I am proud to be an American."

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, funeral and internment services have been

postponed. A Celebration of Life in Tom's honor will be held at a later date.
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Salvation Army:
<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/ways-to-give/>

Condolences may be sent to: www.piercefh.com

Tribute Wall

DF

“ *David E. Feldman purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Thomas Phelps Potter Sr..*



David E. Feldman - May 27, 2021 at 09:29 AM

JD

“ *Uncle Tom was a wonderful man. Always interested in what was going on in my life...my education, my career, my family. My husband, Ben, and Uncle Tom shared many fond stories about their English heritage. He will be greatly missed, and like his beautiful wife, my Aunt Joyce...he's left a tremendous legacy for his wonderful children and grandchildren. Rest in peace, Uncle Tom.*

Jennifer Dutton - May 18, 2021 at 11:55 AM

DF

“ *I knew Tom for many decades. He was so personal and easy to work with. His family certainly was so fortunate to have had him in their lives for so many years. He will certainly be missed.*

David Feldman

david feldman - May 10, 2021 at 07:09 PM

LM

“ *May his dear soul rest at God's right hand. May the wonderful memories of his full life help you and your family to carry on during this sad time.*
Warm regards, Lorraine McKenna-Hendricks



Lorraine McKenna - April 03, 2021 at 01:39 PM

CP

“ *13 files added to the album Memories Album*



Connie Potter - February 18, 2021 at 08:31 PM

MA

We knew the Potter family from the years our families spent together in Taiwan and in Northern Virginia. So many great memories. Tom was a kind, funny, and loving person - we will miss him very much.

Marit Anderson - May 12, 2021 at 10:51 PM

TP

“ 24 files added to the album Memories Album



Tim Potter - February 18, 2021 at 01:18 PM

JD

“ Tom you were a great role model for me as well. You reinforced the notions of kindness, family and grace in my life and your children are my favorite people. I will miss our chats about investments and the market. We definitely saw eye to eye on that.

Juliette deCarteret - February 18, 2021 at 01:08 PM

TP

“ To my my loving father Thomas Phelps Potter:

Although your passing has only been a few hours now, your impact on my life and lives of your family will live far beyond you did. The compassion you showed for others will be an inspiration to me until I too make that final journey to Valhalla and join you at the table with our fore fathers. I shall miss you terribly until we meet again on the other side. You will always be the light that guides my feet on the path of goodness and the voice on my shoulder comforting me in times of darkness. God speed Dad and may the wind forever be at your back. I love you more than I can ever express. You were my father, my friend and hero.

All my love Tim

Tim Potter - February 18, 2021 at 12:30 PM

FS

“ To dream the impossible dream is perhaps the best way to describe Tom Potter's life. I know of no man that was more satisfied with his life. He adored his wife, he was extremely proud of his sons and their spouses, and if you ever wanted to hear him speak non-stop for an hour just mention "grandchildren".

Tom was one of my best friends and mentor for the past 40+ years. He took me to meet his extensive family in England, we had a twelve course meal in the VIP tent at the Grand National steeple chase and I actually saw the inside of a Pub occasionally.

He was the most respected airline Sales Manager in the Washington D.C. area. Everyone knew who was behind jolly St. Nick's beard every year at industry Christmas social functions Upon his retirement from Pan Am the travel professionals bought a full page in the Washington newspaper thanking him for his years of dedication to them and their clients needs.

Reach out my friend and take the hand of God.

Frank Sonnabend

Frank Sonnabend - February 12, 2021 at 05:30 PM