



## Charles Thomas "Tom" Austin

July 2, 1932 - May 24, 2015

With earthly sadness but with eternal hope, Tom Austin went home to be with Jesus on May 24, 2015.

Tom was born outside Mill Creek, Oklahoma in 1932 to his beloved parents Thelma and Joe Austin. His sisters, Jane and Judy, were born when he was a teenager. It was rough growing up in rural Oklahoma during the Depression years and the lessons he learned stayed with him the rest of his life.

Tom graduated number 1 in his class from Mill Creek High School, where he also played basketball.

In 1950, he attended East Central State, in Ada, Oklahoma as a math major and physics minor. He would have become a math teacher except the oil companies came looking for math majors and offered more money. He accepted a job with Texaco and found his life's calling. It was also at East Central that he met the love of his life and his wife of 61 years, Pat Mark. They married in 1954 and began their life together in Houston. Soon after their first child, Becky, was born they started traveling around the oil patch in Oklahoma having a son, Joe and a daughter Sheri along the way.

Tom was baptized at the age of 28, along with his oldest children, in 1960 at the University Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. When they were able to stay several years in Tulsa, Tom went back to school at night and got his Masters in Geophysics. Around this same time, he took a job with GMX a magnetic contracting company that later merged with GAI a gravity contracting company. From there with Melvin Hopkins and Homer Selman, he set up gravity and magnetic divisions at Tidelands International and later still with Petty-Ray Geophysical. After these ventures, he was ready to set out on his own.

In 1976, he started Austin Exploration. From its humble beginnings, he built what is today the premier gravity and magnetic company in the world. This was his baby. He loved the work, the challenges and his customers. Tom recently sold his shares in the company to continue his legacy and his responsibilities to his customers. Tom was an emeritus

member of the SEG and AAPG and for the last five years was a "Living Legend" at the yearly convention.

Nothing meant more to Tom than his family. There was nothing he wouldn't do for them and they always knew how deeply they were loved by him. He also was a great friend and if you were his friend, you were a friend for life. He loved a good hunt and fishing with his friends.

He is survived by his loving wife, Pat Austin. His three children, Becky Selman and her husband Dean, Joe Austin and his love Terri Mason, Sheri Johnston and her husband Brett. His eight grandchildren, Kate Soheili and her husband Sie, Whitney Johnston, Rachael Delph and her husband Jason, Grant Selman, Corbin Selman, Chance Austin, Audrey Johnston, and Alex Austin. He is also survived by his three precious great granddaughters Helen and Clara Soheili and Emma Brett Delph. His sisters, Jane Lodes and her husband Mike and Judy Stafford and her husband Eddie.

Tom's life was a life well lived. You are invited to celebrate that life with us at Memorial Services at Grace Presbyterian Church Chapel, 10221 Ella Lee Lane, Houston, TX 77042, Friday, May 29, 2015 at 10:30 AM and Montgomery United Methodist Church, 22548 TX-105, Montgomery, TX 77356, Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers please consider contributions in Tom's name to the wonderful nurses and Doctors at Memorial Hermann Foundation, 929 Gessner, Suite 2650, Houston, Texas, 77024.

# Events

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**MAY 29 Memorial Service 10:30AM**  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
10221 Ella Lee Lane, Houston, TX, US, 77042

**MAY 29 Reception 11:30AM**  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
10221 Ella Lee Lane, Houston, TX, US, 77042

**MAY 30 Memorial Service 10:00AM**  
Montgomery United Methodist Church  
22548 TX-105, Montgomery, TX, US, 77356

# Comments

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“ Pat, I am so sorry. I pray God's comfort and peace for you and your family. Love,  
Vanessa Larson, Sugar Land Methodist Church

**Vanessa Larson** - May 28, 2015 at 12:39 PM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Charles Thomas "Tom" Austin.



May 28, 2015 at 11:40 AM

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“ Jon and Gloria Clark purchased the Written in the Stars for the family of Charles Thomas "Tom" Austin.



**Jon and Gloria Clark** - May 28, 2015 at 08:37 AM

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“ Bibbi and Tom Anderson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Charles Thomas "Tom" Austin.



**Bibbi and Tom Anderson** - May 27, 2015 at 05:37 PM

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“ Dear Pat, Becky and family - Tom was a close friend to me for many years. I always looked forward to his telephone calls, visiting with him, his superb sense of humor and the considerable insight that I gained from his perspective. I will miss him greatly. I take heart in the fact that God gives us the precious gift of memory, so that as long as we remember our friends and family, they are never really gone. Please accept my sincerest sympathy and know that my prayers are with you and all of your family.

Leonard Loyd

Leonard Loyd - May 27, 2015 at 03:28 PM

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“ Pat,

Peg & I are so sorry for your loss. We share many memories of travel with the two of you and we will miss seeing Tom. We know that he is with the Lord and we know that the Lord will comfort you and your family during this time of grief. Our prayers follow you and your family.

Gary and Peg Gardner

Gary Gardner - May 27, 2015 at 10:26 AM

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“ Tom and Pat Austin:

You're in our hearts. You're in our memories. Those things can not be taken away. We will all be together someday!

In Christian Love,

Carolyn and Byron Hummon

Byron E. Hummon Jr. - May 27, 2015 at 09:50 AM

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“ Uncle Tommy will forever be known as the "rock uncle" by McKenna. He so patiently walked her around the hotel grounds in South Dakota for Kevin Mark's wedding and pointed out special rocks for her to collect. He even bought her some special ones at a souvenir stand. All of them came home with me and I still have them in a dish on my front porch. My neighbor's kids like to come "borrow" a rock which I let them do from time to time as long as they bring it back. I will miss Uncle Tommy's gentleness, kindness and sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers are with you Aunt Pat and Becky, Joe Mark and Sheri.

**Lisa Mark** - May 26, 2015 at 12:53 PM



“ thanks Lisa for the sweet memory of our Dad  
He was a great man and will be deeply missed.

**Sheri Johnston** - May 26, 2015 at 08:32 PM



“ To the Austin family,

So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Tom was a wonderful person and a real gentleman. I'll miss his wonderful sense of humor and great stories he told when we would meet for lunch every couple of months. Wishing you peace at this difficult time.

Paul Stephenson and his many friends at WesternGeco

**Paul Stephenson** - May 27, 2015 at 01:56 PM