

Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger

October 19, 1947 - May 15, 2018

Thomas Michael Ehlinger, 70, of Houston passed away Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Tom was born October 19, 1947 in San Antonio, Texas to Herman Joseph and Vlasta (Pat) Orsak Ehlinger. He survived by his wife of 48 years, Kathleen (Kathy) Rhone Ehlinger; daughter, Melinda; son, Daniel; brother, Ernest (Ernie) Ehlinger & wife Karin; niece Jennifer Ehlinger and grand-niece Emelia Ehlinger, all of Woodbridge, VA. Aunt, Mrs. Julia Timm, Hallettsville, TX. Tom is also survived by numerous cousins, extended family and dear friends.

Tom was raised in San Antonio, Texas and attended St. Margaret Mary's Catholic School. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1965. Earned a BS in Physics from St. Mary's University in 1969. He also earned a MS from Florida Institute of Technology in 1978 and was a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College and Army War College. He met and married the love of his life, Kathy in 1970 in San Antonio. Tom served in the United States Army for 26 years before retiring with the rank of Colonel. His military assignments included Germany, Korea, Egypt, Kuwait and assignments in the United States. He was a veteran of the Gulf War.

After his Army career he worked for Valley Telephone Co-op Inc. in Raymondville, Texas for four years. He was currently employed by the Stafford Municipal School District as Senior JROTC instructor. He had started

the program in 2002 and it was his pride and joy.

Tom was a longtime member of St. Jerome Catholic Church where he was Head Usher and a 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Father Diefenbach Council 4550 and past Grand Knight. He was also a 4th Degree member and most recently Faithful Navigator of the Msgr. William D. Steele Assembly 2033.

Thomas M. "Tom" Ehlinger Col (Ret.) 70, of Houston passed away Monday, May 15, 2018. A graveside service will be held Friday, June 15, 2018 at 10:30 AM at Holy Cross Cemetery, 17501 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78266. Fort Sam Houston Honor Guard will be present to render Military Funeral Honors.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions in Tom's memory to Knights of Columbus Council 4550 Scholarship Fund, c/o St. Jerome Catholic Church, Central Catholic High School Building Fund, c/o Central Catholic High School, 1403 N. St. Mary's St., San Antonio, TX. 78215, or St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, TX. 78228.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross

17501 Nacogdoches Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78266

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 15. 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Cross
17501 Nacogdoches Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78266

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *The School of Science, Engineering and Technology is deeply saddened at the passing of an illustrious alumnus and is praying for Col. Ehlinger and the family in a very special way today. I enjoyed meeting Tom and Kathy in Houston over dinner.*

With our deepest condolences, prayers, and gratitude for your faithful service,

Winston Erevelles

Winston Erevelles - June 15, 2018 at 08:08 AM

WE

“ *Winston Erevelles lit a candle in memory of Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger*



Winston Erevelles - June 15, 2018 at 08:04 AM

CD

“ *Thomas Ehlinger was my cadet platoon tactical officer during the 1968/69 school year at St. Mary's University. His job was to prepare us for 1969 ROTC summer camp at Ft Sill, Oklahoma as well as mentor us during the school year on a variety of other subjects. His preparation helped our platoon of cadets survive summer camp. I was sorry to see a former mentor pass away.*

*Conrad Diric
LTC USAR retired
St. Mary's University class of 1970*

Conrad Diric - June 13, 2018 at 03:54 PM

GR

“ *Please accept my family's heartfelt condolences on the loss of your dear loved one. May you find peace in fond memories of them, and comfort in God's biblical promise to shortly resurrect those asleep in death, and to finally rid us the unnatural agony death inflicts forever.*

Greene's - June 06, 2018 at 04:01 PM

SH

“ I did a number of news features on Col. Ehlinger’s JROTC group for Stafford Municipal TV. It was wonderful to see how he genuinely believed in his students’ potential and cared about their futures. They respected him, and rose to meet his expectations. I’ll miss his positive spirit and energy.

Stacee Hawkins - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 PM

LB

“ Lionel Brown lit a candle in memory of Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger




Lionel Brown - May 17, 2018 at 06:50 PM

Charles Veith

“ Charles Veith lit a candle in memory of Thomas (Tom) Michael Ehlinger



Charles Veith - May 17, 2018 at 05:24 PM



Charles
Veith

“ Tom was good friend that i will miss like heck. i was his District Deputy when he was Grand Knight of his Council (#4550 at St. Jerome). We continued as friends thereafter. Tom was dedicated to his Family, Faith, Country and Our Order. There aren't enough good things to say about him. Tom represented the very best of our Faith, Country and the Knights of Columbus. All three will miss him as well. Tom gave his best in everthing he did. chief

Charles H. "chief" Veith
FDD-87 TX
FDD-70 TX

Charles Veith - May 17, 2018 at 05:23 PM

PB

“ Tom was an outstanding Fourth Degree Sir Knight and will be greatly missed by all - especially by the Exemplar Corps of the First District of Texas. He was also an outstanding Catholic gentleman. I always appreciated his business-like approach to our Fourth Degree Ceremonials. He could always be counted upon to help whenever and wherever needed. All of us in the First District of Texas will miss him and remember him. He will be forever in our hearts and prayers.

Paul Bettge
Former Master
First District of Texas
Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus

Paul Bettge - May 17, 2018 at 01:59 PM

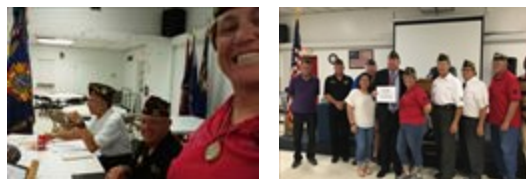


“ Kathy,
Our prayers are with you at this difficult time. Tom was a true friend and mentored me as the Comptroller of our Knights of Columbus 4th degree Assembly. He loved to talk with me about fishing and when he was going to get back to the water for another trip. He will be sorrowfully missed, but will remain alive in our fond memories of a true friend, loving saint and patriot.
Nick and Mary Boyd

Nick Boyd - May 17, 2018 at 09:05 AM



“ Colonel Ehlinger was a friend, comrade, and one of our VFW post 5619 officers for many years and for 3 while I was Commander. I always enjoyed the stories he would tell of his adventures at school that month with his JR ROTC cadets. His passion for veterans and helping to develop our future leaders was amazing!!! To his family I am sending prayers up. He was always ready for the next task, and i appreciate everything.
Comrade you will be missed!
Past Commander Faith



Faith Federspiel - May 17, 2018 at 12:39 AM