



Thomas Merritt Starker

October 15, 1953 - May 25, 2014

Thomas Merritt Starker of Houston, Texas, died peacefully in his home on May 25, 2014, following a battle with cancer. Born in Munich, Germany, October 15, 1953, Preceding him in death: His Father: Brigadier General Joseph B. Starker, Nephew: John Bradley Witherspoon, Sister-in-law: Phillis J. Cameron and Brother-in-law: Michael D. Willis.

Tom leaves to mourn his wife Gwinnette B. Starker, Mother: Sallie Tom Merritt Starker, Mother-in-Law: Mattlyne Dukes, Sister: Susan Dahl Witherspoon (Little Rock, Arkansas) & Sallie Carleton Melton (Leavenworth, Kansas); Sister-in-law: (Leroy) & Elandis W. Cashe; Brother-in-law Lee G. & (Marsha) Willis; Nieces: Kaja M. Cameron (Atlanta, Georgia), Medina J. Willis (Austin, Texas), Catherine Brooks Witherspoon (Little Rock, Arkansas), Mary Carroll Melton (Kansas City, Kansas), Sallie Elizabeth Witherspoon (Little Rock, Arkansas), Morgan I. Willis (Houston, Texas); Nephews: Christopher A. & (Chemedria) Cameron (Atlanta, Georgia) Agyei & (Amanda) Stubbs (Houston, Texas), Neal P Melton, (Kansas City, Kansas), Joseph M. Melton (New York, New York), Grantlin I. Willis (Houston, Texas); Great Grand Nephews: Jabari C. Copeland & Cameron Tate Copeland (Atlanta, Georgia), Colby C. Cameron & Chase A. Cameron (Atlanta, Georgia); Great Grand Nieces: Kennedy Cameron (Atlanta, Georgia) & Amani C. Stubbs (Houston, Texas); Godsons: Deadrick Howard, (Houston, Texas), Shamari F. Robinson (Atlanta, Georgia) & Edher Curdenas (Houston, Texas) and a host of friends

and colleagues.

Tom was a gifted linguist and spent his thirty-two year career as a translator of Russian and Slavic languages. If a book were written about Tom, his character would be described as "Everyman". Tom had a boundless sense of adventure, finding new friends wherever he went. He had a deep love of family, taking great pride in the accomplishments of his many nephews and nieces. Tom was an avid sports fan and an intellectual genius, devouring both books and baseball. Complex but simple, Tom was hard-working, honest, humble, generous, and kind. He will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service celebrating Tom's life will be held Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 1:00 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 31. 1:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Merritt Starker*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Thomas Merritt Starker*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Thomas Merritt Starker*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Thomas Merritt Starker*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Ron Merritt - August 18, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ *Forever my Big Brother ... I miss and love you! Susan Dahl Starker Witherspoon*

Susan Dahl Starker Witherspoon - June 11, 2014 at 03:35 PM

DC

“ Tom was very dear to me....I will miss him.

Denise Cooper - May 31, 2014 at 10:10 AM

MW

“ I am saddened to learn of the loss of your dear Thomas. Please take solace in knowing Our Heavenly Father has already made provision to awaken him from sleep, very soon. Jesus tells us of a coming global resurrection. At John 5:28-29 it reads in part "..... Do not be amazed at this, the hour is coming when all those in the memorial tombs will hear His voice and come out". This is no mere fantasy. The Bible documents nine different accounts of persons having been brought back to life, with Jesus being the foremost. Some of these are found at Mark 5:35-42, and John 11:11,14-44. This future resurrection will be to a Paradise earth, free of sickness and death (Psalms 37:9-11,29, Rev. 21:4). I understand your grief having lost my Mother last month, but have been strengthened by this wonderful hope. May your pleasant memories of Thomas' life and the reliability if Gods' promises become a balm of comfort, and sooth all of your broken hearts as well, until that day. God always keeps His promises (Titus 1:2). Mrs. D. Ward Michigan www.jw.org

Mrs. D. Ward - May 30, 2014 at 03:50 PM

EW

“ Elandis Willis-Cahe lit a candle in memory of Thomas Merritt Starker



Elandis Willis-Cahe - May 29, 2014 at 06:26 PM

EW

Tom, I miss you already

Elandis Willis-Cahe - May 29, 2014 at 06:28 PM

MB

“ *Mary P. Batts lit a candle in memory of
Thomas Merritt Starker*



Mary P. Batts - May 29, 2014 at 06:00 PM