



Thomas Allen France

May 12, 2018

Thomas Allen France, 77, of Fort Collins, passed away suddenly Saturday, May 12 at home.

Tom was born in Ohio in 1940 to John and Charlotte France, but he grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he attended St. Petersburg High School and St. Petersburg Junior College.

After college, he served in the Air Force for 4 years. He was stationed in Wadena, Minnesota, where he met his wife, Mary. The two were married in 1967 in St. Petersburg. They had two daughters, Kathleen, of New York City, and Caroline, of Greenville, South Carolina.

Tom worked for Hewlett Packard for 27 1/2 years. During that time, he continued his education at Regis University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude with an Engineering Degree in Computer Information Systems.

Tom was an excellent photographer. He and his wife enjoyed bird watching and he took many beautiful bird pictures that were shared with friends.

He is survived by his wife Mary; daughters, Kathleen and Caroline; the Andrew Kennedy family; and many nephews, nieces and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Howard.

There will be a private service at a later date. Donations may be made in Tom's name to the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Allen France*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I only knew Tom through his wonderful wife Mary, whom I met in 1974 when we both worked at Kmart. I have been blessed with her friendship all these years and even though I have only seen her and Tom a couple of times in the last 10 or so, he was always part of the package. I am thankful I was able to visit them last August for a few hours. I had very fond feelings for Tom, he was kind and funny and a pleasure to be around. And the photographs he took were incredible. Thank you Tom and Mary for sharing those over the years. It's been a few weeks but I still can't believe he's gone. RIP Tom. And much love and peace to Mary, Kathleen and Caroline.*

Stella Gibson - June 03, 2018 at 09:28 PM

DD

“ Love to Tom up in heaven and Mary and the girls on earth. First met Mary almost 30 yrs. ago when I went back to graduate school at CSU and was looking for a massage therapist-- saw her card at a local New Age shop in Fort Collins--and from there, over the years, we became good friends. I was so influenced, I became a licensed massage therapist myself. Would see Tom on occasion when I visited Mary for a session. Remember Tom and their bird Lucy-- maybe they're keeping each other company now. I moved to other states, did another stint in CO when I visited Mary again, and now am residing in my home state of NY. But we stayed in touch via e-mail with Tom's beautiful bird photos (my favorite bird being the Great Blue Heron), and Mary's cartoons and jokes (we have similar political inclinations), and phone calls--her white light and love always got me through difficult times. Sometimes Tom would answer the phone and often through Mary would help me with some computer or Prius questions (got one on their recommendation). So the wonderful and beautiful Tom will be greatly missed for so many reasons, but mostly for being the other half of my dear friend Mary.
Love, Diane



Diane Dembicki - May 24, 2018 at 01:48 PM

GB

“ Mary so sad for you and the girls. Tom was such a good and kind man. Almost fifty ago we all meet and shared many good times. Always in my memories.

Glenda Braun - May 22, 2018 at 09:18 PM

SW

“ Mary, (you especially) and Tom have been very dear friends to me over the last 40 years. I am so saddened by his passing. I appreciated Tom's kindness, his easygoing style and his intelligence. And his sense of humor was awesome!

I will never forget the motorcycle rides with Mary's blessing (as she did not like motorcycles) Tom and I had some very nice rides when I was in college. Tom was an amazing photographer and I was in awe at his outstanding home projects he accomplished. He will be missed!

God's blessings to your family!

Susan Zeller Wheeler

Susan Zeller Wheeler - May 21, 2018 at 07:24 PM

DR

“ Grew up with Tommy; he was 8 when his brother Howard and I began dating. (We married 5/15/1955)...attended Tom and Mary's wedding with his mom Charlotte. Loved them both; still do. Shock has not yet worn off.

Doris France Russell

Doris France Russell - May 20, 2018 at 12:03 PM

DB

“ When Tom and Marry arrived, Mary was always the first one in the door and Tom was the one to trail in a few- or many minutes later after he had successfully dropped his wife off and parked! When dining out, somebody had to be the one to help finish a blueberry danish pancake, and Tom gladly stepped up to the job on many occasions! These small acts reflected Tom's love to for his sweet wife Mary. A true gentlemen and loving husband!

I looked forward to seeing my favorite couple walk in the doors, or receive and email with lovely birds and wildlife and hearing stories about them! I appreciate Tom's genuine loving kindness to all, and twinkle in his eye just before he cracked a joke! These memories I shared with family and friends when I was asked why I like my job!

I am privileged to have known Tom, and honored to know Mary.

DeAnza Banuelos - May 19, 2018 at 07:08 PM

AK

“ Dearest Mary and your family, I am so sorry to hear about Tom's sudden passing. I wish I could find the right words to say, that will help ease some of the pain, you and your family are going through. But I am PRAYING... praying God, gives you the strength to cope with the loss of your beloved Tom. I pray God comfort you and your family through this most difficult time.



I never met Tom, but I knew in my heart, he was an amazing kind man! A gifted man. He was truly blessed, with such an amazing gift. I can't say enough, how thankful I am, for sharing with me, his amazing photography. Truly inspiring for me, and it was my therapy. Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough.

I will also pray Mary, that in time, you carry on what you and your dearest Tom have always enjoyed together. Special moments with your family, and or friends, walks in nature, "Birding" as many of us people in the birding world like to call it. There will be moments when you will feel Tom's presence sooooo strong, letting you know, he is right there with you!

Thank you Tom, for inspiring me, lifting me with your incredible photography. Thank you Tom, for your Service to us and country! God has a special place for people like you... it is called, "HEAVEN".

God Bless You and comfort You.

Angela Koehler - May 19, 2018 at 02:29 PM

JK

“ Tom was a very inspirational person. Although he was soft-spoken, he was a font of information and knowledgeable in many areas. I always enjoyed talking to him and marveled at all the expertise he had to share. His inspiration definitely carries over into his family life as an upstanding role model. Of course, I can't leave out his photography which was mesmerizing. He will be greatly missed.

John Kniprath - May 17, 2018 at 09:44 PM

JK

“ John Kniprath lit a candle in memory of Thomas Allen France



John Kniprath - May 17, 2018 at 09:34 PM

AK

“ I am saddened to learn of the passing of my friend and former neighbor, Tom France. Tom was a talented, decent, and principled man who was committed to his family and community. I will always remember Tom for his good sense of humor, trustworthiness, creativity, and most importantly for his incredible marriage with his wife, Mary.

I knew Tom not only as a great neighbor but also through numerous interactions with him at Hewlett-Packard. Tom embodied the core values that the founders of HP established, including teamwork, respect for the individual, and dedication to excellence. Tom made everyone around him better. Tom was also a very kind man. I'll never forget the set of photos he had personally taken of nature scenes and gave to my mother during her illness and last days in hospice care. Tom was a man of few words who didn't expect a lot of attention and praise, but his contributions were vast and valued by many.

Almost everyone knew Tom as an excellent photographer, but he was also a master craftsman. I was in awe of his ability to fix anything, build anything, and do it with such quality and precision. He took pride in his work. He was so smart and talented where he could confidently learn new skills and single-handedly tackle a major remodeling project that was top shelf!

It's absolutely impossible to think of Tom France without thinking of his wife, Mary. Mary was Tom's queen and he treated her like one. I admired their happy, easy-going marriage where they shared everything from bird watching, to long walks, to road trips, and even the obligatory trips to the city dump following one of Tom's construction projects. They had fun together! Mary always made me laugh and put me in such a good mood. I can see how they enriched each other's lives.

I will remember Tom for his friendship his sense of purpose in life. Tom France was a remarkable man and he will truly be missed.

Alex Krikos - May 17, 2018 at 08:19 PM

LD

“ *I loved getting emails from Tom and Mary and anxiously opened the attachments to see some of the amazing photos that they took together. Always willing to share with the birding community and just wonderful friends to me and the team at the store. I will miss his easy-going style and gentle approach to nature and all of its wonder.*

Lauren DeRosa - May 17, 2018 at 01:10 PM

LD

“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Lauren DeRosa - May 17, 2018 at 01:09 PM

KW

“ *Kim Wood lit a candle in memory of Thomas Allen France*



Kim Wood - May 16, 2018 at 06:15 PM

KW

I will always remember all of the beautiful pictures that Tom took and Mary shared. I truly enjoyed them. Tom will be missed. Mary, I am keeping you and the girls in my thoughts and prayers.

Kim Wood - May 16, 2018 at 06:16 PM

ML

So happy that Tom and Mary had such delightful retirement years together. What wonderful birding adventures they had. And Tom's gift of photography allowed all of us to appreciate their bird "finds". Tom's excellent craftsmanship can be seen throughout their home. His ready smile, sharp eye and artistry will be missed. Much love to Mary and the girls.

Marolyn Lemming

marolyn lemming - May 18, 2018 at 10:21 AM

DC

“ We have such good memories of our visit to Fort Collins in 2012 when Tom and Mary picked us up from the campground and treated us to lunch. It was so nice to get to spend time together. They both made us feel so welcome.

Darlene Carlson - May 16, 2018 at 04:51 PM

BT

“ I knew Tom in high school but not well- even though we were on the same track team. But later on in life we had so much more in common: we both graduated from St. Petersburg Junior College; both joined the Air Force and were assigned to radar repair training at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS; each of us transferred to two different radar squadrons in Florida and Minnesota doing the same job; we both married women who grew up in different states; we both obtained engineering degrees at two different colleges and worked in industry and retired from two different companies in Florida and Colorado. But I had a unique experience with Tom that I've never had with another person. I've only been drunk twice in my life and each time was with Tom: when we finished electronics school at Keesler AFB and when we celebrated our discharge from the Air Force. Very good memories together!

Barry Timmons

Barry Timmons - May 16, 2018 at 04:37 PM

JN

“ Joyce Norring lit a candle in memory of Thomas Allen France



Joyce Norring - May 16, 2018 at 09:46 AM

DR

“ I remember when you two came to the high school to see the transit of Venus across the sun through the solar filtered telescope. You two were my most interested students and I think Tom captured it with his camera. There were many times I interacted with him when I came to get my massages. I remember his amazing wood working shop and how proud he was to give me a tour. I will miss seeing all of his wonderful images that you would post as well. My mom will to and wanted to also express her condolences.

Doris R - May 16, 2018 at 09:10 AM

BN

“ Mary, we are thinking about you and are happy we had the opportunity to meet Tom. The words that come to our minds are kind and gentle spirit.



Butch and Sue Nyhus - May 16, 2018 at 08:43 AM

KW

“ Kay Ward lit a candle in memory of Thomas Allen France



Kay Ward - May 16, 2018 at 08:29 AM

CB

“ I only knew Tom through his exceptional photography, shared by his lovely wife, Mary. What a loss to the world, that stunning artistic talent!

cj burrell - May 16, 2018 at 06:12 AM

JC

“ Jean Current lit a candle in memory of
Thomas Allen France



Jean Current - May 16, 2018 at 12:22 AM

JC

“ I remember Tom coming to visit in Minnesota to visit and he always had his laptop with . Tom took countless numbers of bird photos as he and Mary were avid birdwatchers.. I had many of your photos printed up Tom and framed as well. I am going to miss you. Tom as a great husband to Mary and loving father to his two daughters.

He will be sadly missed.

Jim and Jean Current

Jean Current - May 16, 2018 at 12:21 AM

JG

“ I was very fortunate to receive Tom and Mary's email posts for several years. The pictures were always fantastic and Mary always accompanied them with interesting information about the birds or animals.

I am sorry Tom is gone from all of us. Mary, I am thinking of you often.

Love,

Joan Glabach

Joan Glabach - May 15, 2018 at 11:01 PM

JL

“ Mary, I've know you and Tom forever. You and the girls are in my thoughts and prayers. I hope you find comfort in the memories you have of bird watching and the photos he took. He will be missed my many.

Love you,
Josie and C.R.

Josie Leverett - May 15, 2018 at 08:27 PM

JC

“ I didn't know Tom well, met him only once or twice, however I have lived vicariously through his adventures in photography for a number of years now. He and Mary frequented the Back Porch Cafe and my daughter Rachael showed them my very humble bird photographs, and thus began the birding adventure e-mails. Thank you for loving and encouraging my girl, Rachael.

Jean Chaskey. - May 15, 2018 at 08:00 PM

KH

“ You were such a gentle, soft man. You will be missed by all of the family. Rest in peace. Luv, chuk and karlene

Karlene hamilton - May 15, 2018 at 07:54 PM

TF

“ A wonderfully funny man, sweet and very talented with his photography. How I appreciated all the pictures you took for me over all the years. I will miss your giggle! Love you! Tamie Folley

Tamie Folley - May 15, 2018 at 07:51 PM