



## Thomas Eugene McMillen Sr

May 8, 2024

Thomas Eugene McMillen, Sr, age 89, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on May 8, 2024, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Tom was born April 11, 1935, in Rochelle, Illinois, the oldest of 4 children. He is survived by 4 of his 5 children – Daniel (Jane) McMillen, Tom (Sandy) McMillen, Jr., Kathie Warner and Brenda McMillen and his son-in-law, Brad Burke. He leaves behind 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, and 2 brothers, Malcolm (Pat) and Phil (Kate) McMillen. Tom was preceded in death by his loving wife of 63 years, Claudine, his daughter Nancy, his grandson Christopher, 2 foster daughters (Jeanine and Marsha), his sister Marian and his parents, Jack and Thelma.

Tom met the love of his life, Claudine, in high school in Illinois and they married in 1954. Tom was attending Wheaton College when they married, with the goal of becoming a missionary. He left Wheaton as his family began to grow, but he never gave up his goal of becoming a missionary. The world was his mission field, and he had a positive influence on every person he met. Within a few short years Tom and Claudine had 4 small children and they moved to Fort Collins in 1962, with the goal of starting afresh in a new city. Tom went to work for the City of Fort Collins Light & Power department, starting as a Lineman and working his way up to Supervisor/Crew Chief, retiring after 35 years of service. He was well loved and respected within the city, and he enjoyed his work and his teammates. Tom developed the

electrical safety program “Look up and Live” and he delivered the program to many children around Fort Collins. Tom was very engaged in his community and volunteered as a reserve Police Officer in Fort Collins for 11 years, from 1970-1981.

Tom and Claudine loved children and were foster parents to 85 children over 27 years of their marriage. Their house was always filled with children, laughter and love. The McMillen’s were members of Faith Evangelical Free Church in Fort Collins and Tom served on their Deacon board for many years. He and Claudine managed the AWANA children’s program at Faith, and later, they taught Sunday School to 2-year-olds and mentored the teen helpers in the classroom with them. The church was an integral part of Tom’s life.

In his spare time, Tom loved to camp and fish and every summer he and Claudine would take their children and foster children to Glen Echo for a week of outdoor fun. In 1978, Tom and Claudine bought a lot in Crystal Lakes, Colorado and began construction of a cabin, which they built from the ground up with the help of their children and Tom’s father Jack. Most every weekend found them working at the cabin, surrounded by children and grandchildren. The cabin was a love project and Tom poured his heart into each log that went into the construction.

Tom was a devoted father, husband and grandfather. His grandchildren all have wonderful memories of their time with Grandpa. He was their AWANA leader, and he taught them to fish, shoot, and enjoy the outdoors. He was their mentor and role model, demonstrating and teaching them about the love of Jesus Christ.

Tom was an excellent husband to Claudine, and he spent the last several years of their marriage lovingly caring for her as her health declined. After she passed away in 2017, Tom continued to live independently and stayed very involved in the lives of his family. In 2022, when his own health declined, Tom

moved into Collinwood Assisted Living Center and together with his brother Phil and sister-in-law Kate, he created a Sunday morning church ministry for the residents of Collinwood. As Tom told his family, he believed that God had directed him to Collinwood to bring the gospel and the joy of the Lord into the residents' lives. He was a favorite among the Collinwood residents and staff, and they will miss him greatly.

When we think of Tom (Dad, Grandpa, Brother, Friend) we think of love. He lived his faith every minute of every day. He loved everyone unconditionally and his kind spirit, gentle eyes and joyful smile will never leave our memories. He was modest and humble. His faith was the cornerstone of who he was, and his legacy will live forever through his influence on his friends and his family. We mourn his loss here on earth, but we are assured that he is cradled in the loving arms of Jesus and celebrating with the family members who preceded him to his eternal home. Welcome home, good and faithful servant of the Lord.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, May 20 at 11:00 AM at Faith Church of Fort Collins, 3920 S Shields Street, Fort Collins, CO. A reception will immediately follow at the church and a graveside service will be conducted at Resthaven Memory Gardens at 2:00 PM that same day. All who knew Tom or were touched by his love are welcome to attend.

# Cemetery Details

## Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery

8426 S College Ave  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
info@resthavencolorado.com  
<http://www.resthavencolorado.com/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

**MAY 20.** 11:00 AM (MT)

Faith Evangelical Free Church  
3920 S Shields Street  
Fort Collins, CO

*A reception will immediately follow at the church and a graveside service will be conducted at Resthaven Memory Gardens at 2:00 PM that same day. All who knew Tom or were touched by his love are welcome to attend.*

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ So many fond memories of Tom as he and Claudine ran AWANA's where they led so many young lives to know and love the Lord!! Tom was always a gentle soul who loved the Lord and his family and gave his time and energy so unselfishly to the Lord's work! Tom had a genuine gift for sharing his faith and love for the Lord unabashedly with those he felt the Lord put in his path. Peace and comfort to the McMillen and Burke families. ❤️🙏 Debbie Hover

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**Debbie Hover** - May 20, 2024 at 12:34 PM

DS

“ I had the privilege of working with Tom at Fort Collins L&P. He led a Bible study book at one time where we read though the Bible one page at a time and discussed the readings. It was a gift to be able to spend those months learning about the Bible with Tom's guidance. He was truly an honorable servant of the Lord. Rest in peace dear Tom.

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**Dennis L Sumner** - May 19, 2024 at 03:02 PM

RM

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Tom. He was a wonderful person to know, and I had the privilege of experiencing his kind and calming presence firsthand. During my time as a police officer, there were many occasions when Tom, as a reserve officer, rode with me on patrol. His calm spirit and ability to de-escalate volatile situations were truly remarkable.

Tom was not only an exemplary officer but also a devoted Christian. His moral values and character were of the highest standard, and he never hesitated to show his faith. He loved people unconditionally, caring for them regardless of their mistakes. To me, Tom was often a voice of reason, and it frequently felt like he was teaching me more than I was teaching him about the intricacies of police work.

His public persona of kindness and integrity was a genuine reflection of who he was in private. Tom's passing is a significant loss to this world, but it is also a great gain for heaven. I am certain that when he arrived at the gates of heaven, Jesus welcomed him with the words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Tom's legacy of compassion and unwavering faith will continue to inspire all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

With deepest sympathy,

Ray Martinez, Former Mayor of Fort Collins

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Ray Martinez - May 18, 2024 at 09:09 PM

JH

“ My condolences to the McMillen family.

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Jerry Hurt - May 18, 2024 at 05:30 PM

NL

“ I met Tom when I was only 10 or 11 years old because he was dating my sister, Claudine. I remember thinking how handsome he was and then his sweet and quiet spirit. He was always smiling and happy and then the gentle little chuckle he always did. I am so happy he is in Heaven with my sis and all the family we have in Heaven. We will all miss his gentle voice. Love from your Sister-In-Law, Nancy (Jamerson) Leatherby.

Nancy Leatherby - May 18, 2024 at 10:32 AM

NL

“ I met Tom when he was dating my sister, Claudine. I was only 12 years old and I was instantly struck first by how handsome he was and then by his gentle spirit. He was always happy and had the love of God shining through his eyes and quiet voice. I am so happy he is with Claudine now and all our family in Heaven. Your loving Sister in Law, Nancy Sue Leatherby

Nancy Leatherby - May 18, 2024 at 08:07 AM

CS

“ All our love to you as you celebrate the life of this wonderful man. I remember the first time I met him -- we were coming to Ft. Collins to visit and pulled down your street and he was actually up on a pole on your street! Prayers for you all as you navigate life without your precious Dad/Grandpa. So thankful he is walking the streets of gold, worshiping Jesus, and reunited with Claudine, Nancy, and other loved ones. I wish we could come for the service, but have a funeral on the 18th for my mother's closest friend. Hugs from us, Cheryl and Jim Stewart

Cheryl Stewart - May 17, 2024 at 02:56 PM