



Thomas W. Phelan

April 13, 2022

Thomas W. Phelan, 98, of Fort Collins, Colo., passed away on Wednesday, April 13th, 2022, at his home.

He was born in Denver on December 30th, 1923, to Grattan and Willa Phelan. He attended Regis High School and College. His education was interrupted by WWII in which he served on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. He continued his service in the Naval Reserve and retired as a Lt. Commander.

He married Lucille Hammond of Craig, CO in 1948, and moved to St. Louis to attend St. Louis University. His degree in philosophy resulted in a job at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin for 40 years. He enjoyed sailing, golfing, and traveling.

In his youth, he was an Eagle Scout and spent many summers helping his uncle, who managed a ranch in Wyoming. As an adult he officiated sailboat races and enjoyed watching his sons' races. His impact on the students he taught is seen by the many who remain friends to this day. He also had a close affiliation with the Norbertine Order of priests, many of whom he had in class.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Grattan and Willa Phelan, wife Lucille, siblings; Marilyn, Don, Patricia, grandchildren; Alexander and Troy

Phelan, infant sons of Brian.

Tom is survived by his brother Gerry (Adele), daughter, Sheila Balloffet (Armando); sons, Sean (Tammy), Brian (Jo), Terrence, Patrick (Barb); grandchildren, Nicole (Marco), Nathan (Jenn), Philip (Sarah), Jason (Jordan), Sara (Patrick), Dylan (Samira), Jessica (Matt), Casey, Alexander (Crystal), Erin (Hayden); great-grandchildren, Evie, Diego, Velvetina, Mateo, Finley, and Anika.

A memorial service will be held at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 5450 South Lemay Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525, on Saturday, May 14th, 2022, at 10 a.m. with Abbot Joel Garner O.Praem officiating. A reception and luncheon will follow.

He will be interred at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO with full military honors next to his beloved wife Lucy.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to: Norbertine Community, Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey, 5825 Coors S.W., Albuquerque, NM 87121

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **14**. 10:00 AM (MT)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
5450 South Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80525
seas@seas-parish.org
<http://seas-parish.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas W. Phelan*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I want to send my sincere condolences to Tom's family for their loss. He and his wife Lucille were very dear to my mother (Pam Van Loon, Lucille's cousin). May your memories bring you comfort. I will keep you in my prayers.*

Mollie Van Loon - June 23, 2022 at 06:20 PM



“ *We send our sincere condolences to the entire Phelan family, especially our friend Sean. Through him we met Brian, Terry and Pat and his gracious parents. We have fond memories of them welcoming us into their home. We are so sorry for your loss. May your memories bring you comfort.*
Rick and Doreen Klinkenberg

Rick and Doreen Klinkenberg - April 29, 2022 at 04:07 PM

JW

“ Tom Phelan was one of my professors at St. Norbert, and also one of my favorites, during my undergraduate years (1956-1960). My memories are of a kind, gentle soul who made students feel welcome. He helped establish the Honors Program at St. Norbert in the 1960s, when I returned to the College as a new faculty member. Then Professor Phelan became a colleague whom I recall with great fondness.

May there be more like him. And may he rest in peace.

*Jack Williamsen
Professor Emeritus, Psychology
St. Norbert College*

Jack Williamsen - April 25, 2022 at 05:26 PM

SO

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy at this time of loss of your beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. He was a beloved teacher of philosophy and my colleague at St. Norbert College for many years. I hold all of you in prayer and will have a mass offered for him at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross in Green Bay, WI. May God hold you in the hollow of his hand in your time of grief.

Sister Sally Ann Brickner, OSF - April 25, 2022 at 05:12 PM

JO

“ Dear Phelans,

I am deeply saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Phelan, your brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Not only was he a colleague of my father's, but also, along with Mrs. Phelan, among my parents dearest friends, and bridge partners (although my mother might have challenged the idea that my father was a bridge partner or anyone).

He taught me my first course in philosophy. I believe it was called simply Aristotle. I now teach in the philosophy department of the University of Notre Dame. The effects of the lives of great teachers live on an on in the world. Mr. Phelan was one of those teachers for me, and I can only hope to be that for my students now 42 years later.

I recall going to school at Abbot Pennings with Brian and Pat. But I especially remember Terry's extraordinary kindness to me when my father died in my senior year of college, teaching me how to play racquetball. I am forever grateful for what your parents gave to me. Your father was an extraordinarily warm and kind teacher and man. Thank you.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and your perpetual light shine upon him.

John O'Callaghan

John O'Callaghan - April 25, 2022 at 10:48 AM

JH

Dear Phelan family, particularly Terry and Pat,

Carol and I were deeply saddened to learn of Tom's passing, and we share your grief at the loss of this marvelous man.

As a new faculty hire at the college in the 70s, Tom reached out to me, welcoming me into the community. He was not only a role model and colleague, he became a cherished friend, along with Lucy.

I fondly remember his modeling clothes for the Arthur Norgaard store in Birch Creek. What a handsome man! He was also the soul of kindness and gentleness.

Tom will be sadly missed.

We wish all the family comfort and blessing in this time of grief. Carol and I also hope that each day will offer you little comforts and small moments of renewal your hearts need.

*James Hodgson,
Professor Emeritus, Biology
St. Norbert College*

James Hodgson - April 26, 2022 at 07:46 PM

JR

My condolences to the Phelan Family. Tom always treated every employee at SNC as a colleague, including the Chef (a cookie or 2 along the way didn't hurt!). Please know that your family is in my prayers.

James Ryczkowski "Chef J.R." SNC Chef Emeritus

James Ryczkowski - April 30, 2022 at 09:15 AM

NZ

Dear Phelan family,

It is with great sadness that we hear of Tom's passing. He was a professor and mentor of mine at St. Norbert College (1964-1968) and he and Luci became lifelong friends. We watched their parenting of their five beloved children and learned from them how to parent. We shared a memorable camping trip with them in Colorado and learned how to enjoy each moment as a special time in nature and with friends. We saw how Tom mourned Luci's passing and learned how to live out a commitment to a loved one. His strength, wisdom, and kindness were evident in each day as a professor and friend. We were so blessed to have known him.

Nancy (Bollweg) and Mike Zajano

Nancy Zajano - May 07, 2022 at 11:40 AM