



## Thomas E. Franklin

July 16, 1945 - September 28, 2021

Thomas Edwin Franklin, 76, of Menomonie, WI passed away September 28, 2021, surrounded by family at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN after a courageous struggle with prostate cancer. He lived in Menomonie, WI where he married his wife of nearly 40 years, Sharon (Starkman) Franklin and together raised their children, Morgan and John.

He was born July 16, 1945, to Grace Virginia (Wyatt) Franklin and Edwin Abbott Franklin in Fredericksburg, Virginia and grew up on the Dahlgren Naval Base in Dahlgren, VA with his sister Vicki (Franklin) Campbell.

Tom was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, grandson, professor, and mentor. He had a wide array of friends reflecting his many interests in motorcycles, golf, tennis, fishing, and general zest for life. He was “one of kind” with his signature red beard and a passion for his interests, friends and family, and profession. His sense of humor and warm smile brightened the lives of all who knew him. He will be missed by so many.

He dedicated his career as a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin Stout in the Psychology Department. He contributed greatly to the University as a professor, Program Director, and Chair of the Psychology Department where he was widely recognized for his accomplishments. He was also involved in the Golf Enterprise Management Program (GEM) and cosponsored the Body, Mind, Spirit Conference.

He was known as the professor that remembered all his students’ names after the first day of school and was sought out by students to enroll in his classes. His teaching skills, in and out of the classroom, were legendary.

After graduating from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA, he was drafted and enrolled in Officer Candidate School. As a lieutenant, he served as a Transportation Corps Officer, Company Executive Officer, and a Tugboat Platoon Leader in Okinawa.

After completing military service Tom completed his education attending Bucknell University, in Lewisburg, PA and earned a Master’s in Educational Research. He continued at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV earning a Ph. D. in Educational Psychology, whereupon he began his career at the University of Wisconsin Stout.

Tom is survived by his wife, Sharon (Starkman) Franklin; children, Morgan (TJ) Maglio and John Thomas Franklin; grandsons Vincent Thomas Maglio and Julian Jack Maglio; sister, Vicki (Franklin) Campbell; nephews Todd (Denise) Campbell, Scott Campbell, Michael

(Heidi) Starkman, and David Starkman; great-nephews Cody, JD, and Wyatt Campbell; mother-in-law, Mary Ann (Sever) Starkman; sister-in-laws, Marie (Tim) Salerno, Bonnie (Klatt) Starkman and many cousins, relatives and deeply special friends.

He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Grace and Edwin Franklin; grandparents, Homer and Mana Wyatt; Uncle Jack Northington Wyatt; father-in-law, Jack W. Starkman; and brother-in-law J. Jack Starkman.

A celebration of life will be held at Olson Funeral Home in Menomonie, WI a later date, with military honors by Menomonie Veterans Honor Guard.

# Comments

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“ Tom Franklin, or Professor Franklin, changed my life. He was a wizard who lit the path for what else there could be. His own interest as a Seeker for healing and energy beyond the normal box of psychology changed many of our lives and inspired us. I have thought of him so often and in looking again, after many attempts over the years, on how to contact him and remind him how amazing and influential he was I discovered his death. I am so sorry for his passing and as we know...he left an incredible legacy. Thank you Tom, you will be missed and I am forever grateful My condolences to your dear family and friends.

**Erin Hesby** - November 26 at 08:47 PM

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“ As I read the condolences posted here, I realized that we all knew the same wonderful man. Not a whit of difference between those who have known him since birth and those who have known him for a relatively short time. What has been said by one, has been said by all and I see the mark of a great man who never wavered in his true self and showed his truth to everyone he met. If there is a heaven they celebrate his arrival as we mourn his loss. If there is an Angel of mercy and love, he has a higher standard to seek after meeting Tom. If there is a God, she knows the gift she gave to us and understands the pain in our hearts for calling him home. If ever a man could live forever, Thomas Franklin will do so in many, many hearts. Let's ride.

**Patrick Thibado** - October 29 at 01:06 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Bob Salt** - October 25 at 06:07 PM

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“ After learning of Tom's passing several days ago, I have thought often of the impact he had not just on my experience at UW-Stout, but also on my journey in life. Tom was a legend in the Psych department due to his passion for teaching and investment in his students. He helped nurture my love of data and psychology. As a school psychologist, I am thankful for the impact he had on my education. Tom WAS UW-Stout for many. He will forever be cherished by the Stout community and past students. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends. The world lost a great one.

**Amy (Oberhelman) Endle** - October 24 at 08:23 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy to Tom's family and all who love and will miss him. I worked in the Psych department while studying at Stout and later became a psych major so had the pleasure of getting to know Tom during that time. Tom challenged us, inspired us, and taught us so much. I'm grateful for all the knowledge and kindness he shared. The world is certainly better because of him. May the many memories shared help to bring his loved ones comfort.

**Dana Corey** - October 18 at 09:41 PM

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“ Susan and I are saddened to hear of Tom's passing. He was a welcoming voice in our new neighborhood and we enjoyed his curbside greetings and friendly wave as he went of on his French Fry quests. His kind and welcoming smile and wave will be missed.

**Dave Richter-O'Connell** - October 18 at 06:35 PM

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“ Susan and I are saddened to hear of Tom's passing. As a new neighbor he engaged us quickly in conversation and his welcoming spirit was deeply felt. He always had a wave and a curbside hello as he went off on French fry quests. His kind smile will be missed.

**Dave Richter-O'Connell** - October 18 at 09:30 AM

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“ Carol Agnes Altman sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Franklin



**Carol Agnes Altman** - October 10 at 10:06 AM



“ So sorry to hear of your passing my fellow classmate. Love and prayers to your family from mine. May you rest in peace.

**Carol Agnes Altman** - October 10 at 10:09 AM

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“ Carol Agnes Altman lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Franklin



**Carol Agnes Altman** - October 10 at 10:05 AM

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“ Just heard of Tommy's passing and illness and am so sorry to hear. Remember Tommy and his little sister Vicki from Dahlgren Base in Virginia. He was a great lifeguard along with my brother Wayne at the pool. His family's home on base was behind the baseball field and by the pool and playground where most of us Navy kids were in the summer. He was a wonderful and friendly neighbor, family friend; and know he will be missed by so many people. Prayers and positive thoughts to all Tommy's family and friends....Rest in Peace sweet friend.

**Diana Cushing Leathem** - October 09 at 05:46 PM

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“ Larry and I send love and peace as your family navigates a new and surreal life without Tom. I suspect he will be on the sidelines stroking his beard and sending love and positive energy. I came to UW-Stout in the 70's but was not fortunate to have Tom as a psychology teacher. Many years later while working on my masters degree he took me on as his final education major and became my Research Foundations supervisor because he liked my topic, guided imagery. He calmed my fears over statistics and analysis and guided me to a successful thesis. He was a unique and gifted human and he touched many lives for the good. His energy continues.



**Janice Theberge** - October 08 at 06:11 PM

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“ It was with great sadness I read of Tom's passing. Tom was so supportive when my Dad passed away in 2002. My Dad was rather famous for the thermos, the thermos was kept in the Psychology Department conference room for many years after Dad passed away. Tom made sure it came to me before he retired and I was so appreciative. I remember seeing Tom and John play tennis almost daily for a long time as well. Tom's wisdom and humor will always be remembered. Mark, Jean, and Gabriel Fenton

**Mark Fenton** - October 06 at 04:52 PM

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“ He was a beautiful man and he had a lovely spirit that surely must live on somewhere even better than here. How we will miss him.

**Renee Carrell** - October 06 at 02:36 PM

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“ My brother Tommy and I were only 11 months apart, and shared an incomparable bond for our entire lives! Although distance kept us physically apart later in life, our souls remained connected! Wherever you were, you made certain I could travel to spend time together and enjoy your surroundings! Even though you introduced me jokingly(?) as your baby sister, I didn't mind because by then you called me "Sis" instead of "Sissy," supposedly the first word you ever spoke!

When I became a newly divorced parent of 2 toddler sons, you gave me daily strength, courage and self-esteem to move forward and be the mother and role model you knew I could be! I did it!! Those toddlers, Todd and Scot, are 52 and 53.9 years old now, and they loved their Uncle T as if you were a Rock Star, they respected the man you were, and the love you gave to them! And, yes, they even loved your beard!! They'll miss your annual visits to VA, your ping pong challenges, playing golf, eating crabs, warm hugs, love, and extended happy hours with their buddies, who instantly loved your wit and compassion for all! In their remembrance notes, I learned tidbits about those outings! Big Brother , your life skills didn't disappoint!!

You were my salvation, role model, counsellor, hypnotizer, and Hero! I am eternally grateful and blessed for having you as my friend, my BROTHER!! I will love and miss you forever!



**Vicki Franklin Campbell** - October 06 at 01:35 PM

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“ My condolences to all his friends and family. And also all his former students who he undoubtedly made an impression on. He was certainly was one of the greats who thought outside the box and challenged us all to be better, to grow and to heal when needed. RIP Professor Franklin, you will be missed!!!

**Angella Paulson** - October 05 at 07:53 PM

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“ So sorry to hear about the death of Tommy. Tommy and I grew up together on the Naval Base in Dahlgren, Va and had many good times together. He was a great guy and will be sorely missed. Wanda & I will keep Tommy, his sister Vicky, and his Family in our prayers.

Wayne & Wanda Cushing

Wayne Cushing - October 05 at 07:20 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of knowing Tom since q990, when I arrived at UWStout. He was a wonderful colleague and friend. We had lunch together most days at the student center at the revolving table. People would join in S their schedules allowed and we talked about teaching, politics, the environment, whatever was in the news. I blamed him a few times for "making me late" to appointment because of the rigorous discussions we had. Tom will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He touched many lives. Amy Gillett

Amy Gillett - October 05 at 04:38 PM

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“ Christi Clare lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Franklin



Christi Clare - October 05 at 03:31 PM

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“ Cheryle Burrell Martin lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Franklin



Cheryle Burrell Martin - October 03 at 04:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Hopkins-Best - October 03 at 12:14 PM

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“ Having first met Tom as a student in his “Research Foundations” class, we soon became UW-Stout colleagues and friends. As a fellow faculty member, I admired Tom for many reasons. He was a consummate leader in and outside the classroom. For many years he and his good friend Tom Allen championed faculty and staff governance, neither of them hesitating to address problems and issues head on. Their time at the helm were the golden years of the faculty senate. As a department chair Tom modeled participatory governance and service leadership. As Dean, I knew to expect a lively discussion and well supported proposals whenever I visited the Department of Psychology. Tom often shared stories of visits from former students. As anyone in the profession knows, the true mark of an outstanding teacher is being sought out by former students. Tom dearly loved, and was so proud of his wife, children, and grandchildren. He just glowed when talking about his family. To adopt our son internationally necessitated a “psychological report of our fitness as parents” as part of our dossier. Without hesitation Tom provided us with a beautiful, perhaps somewhat embellished, letter of support. He was always one to help others, often without being asked. We have wonderful memories of spending time together as families and sharing the joys and challenges of raising our children. Some of our favorite memories are those of our adventures together in Cozumel, MX, including our last time together at Carnaval immediately before the pandemic shut everything down. Our hearts are breaking for Tom’s family, but hope sharing the countless ways in which he made the world a better place is a source of comfort.

Mary Hopkins-Best - October 03 at 12:00 PM

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“ You are deeply missed Tom. RIP.



**Glen Peterson** - October 03 at 10:16 AM