



## Thomas Allen Hennig

November 18, 1945 - September 26, 2012

passed away after a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer. Tom waged two successful wars with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and carried those scars bravely into the fight with cancer. He was the beloved husband of Lee Ann Hennig and proud and loving father of Thomas Austin Hennig. He is also survived by his sister Mary Ida Lobaugh of Sinton, Texas, his brother William Edward Hennig of Austin, Texas, as well as loving brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins, great nieces and nephews, and wonderful friends and neighbors, especially Joan and Marty LaVor, and Sarah DeRiggi. Tom was born in Sinton, Texas on November 18, 1945, the son of the late Berthold W. and Frances P. Hennig. His lifelong love of astronomy was sparked by his first experience as a young boy in looking through a telescope. He pursued his passion for astronomy and space science into his college/university degree programs at the University of Texas and Purdue University. His career at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency evolved from its inception as The Army Map Service (January 1968) to The Defense Mapping Agency to the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. He was a member of the Senior Executive Service and served in various capacities of leadership throughout his career. He was the recipient of several awards among which were The Distinguished Civilian Service Medal and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. But his proudest career accomplishment was as Project Manager of the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) which successfully flew on the Space Shuttle Endeavour, Mission STS 99 in

February 2000. The SRTM is on display at the NASM Udvar-Hazy center. After 38 years of service at NGA, he retired in 2005. Following his retirement from NGA, he served as a consultant with Digital Globe and Geo Eye. Tom was devoted to his family and treasured his experiences of being a father to Tommy. He enjoyed chasing Total Solar Eclipses and comets as well as sharing his hobbies of photography and amateur radio with his friends. He cherished his country, honored those who defended her, worked every day of his life toward those ideals, and never compromised his principles. A memorial service will be held in Woodsboro, Texas in November, to celebrate his life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made in Tom's memory to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or to a charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Allen Hennig*

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October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



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**Jefferson Funeral Chapel** - January 28, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ *Dear Lee Ann,  
Though I never met Tom; I'm sure he must have been a fine man to share his life with a person of such high integrity and character as you. I know words cannot truly heal the sense of loss; but I am sure your many happy memories will be of some comfort. For now and for the future, I would like to offer my best wishes to you and Tommy. May God bless you.*

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November 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I grew up with Tom in Sinton. We were friends. Our mothers were sisters who were very close. Tom was my cousin. He was family. I will miss Tom.*

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October 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear about Tom. He was a kind and generous man and was truly a joy to be around. We really enjoyed getting to know Tom throughout the years and he was an amazing man. Our prayers and thoughts are with your family at this time. We will see you at the service in November.

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October 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Lee Ann and Tommy, Bonnie and I were so saddened to learn of Tom's passing. There's a new star in the heavens now shining into your telescope! Garry & Bonnie

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October 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ LeeAnn & Tommy I was very saddened to learn of Tom's passing. I worked with Tom at the old DMA HQS. We spent many long hours preparing the POM, many days into the wee hours of the morning. Typical Tom (my boss) one evening when leaving ask ME "Do you mind if I come in a little later tomorrow, I haven't seen my son awake for several weeks". I always had the greatest respect for Tom as one of the finest persons I have ever known. We have lost a great individual. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Mary Beth Goodwin

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October 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ LeeAnn & Tommy, we are at a loose for words on the passing of your husband and father. Tom was an inspiration to everyone he meet. I have so many wonderful memories of my brother. We laughed and cried together many times. We even got into trouble with Momma and Daddy as kids. We will miss him so much but we know he is at peace and has everlasting life.

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October 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ LeeAnn so sorry for your loss. My door is open any time. Sincerely,

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October 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Lee Ann and Tommy, We just learned of Tom's death from Spencer and we are so very sorry for your loss. I had been thinking of all of you just the other day and wondering how things were. Tom was a true gentleman and we so enjoyed his company at the many fencing events we attended together. We will always be grateful to you for all of your kindnesses in our time of need. We truly wish that we could be there for you now. We will keep you in our prayers. Please accept our deepest condolences. In sympathy, Betsy and John Butts.

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October 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm so sorry to learn of Tom's passing. I had the privilege of working for him at DMA in the 1980s. He was one of those unique individuals who excelled at being both a leader and a technical expert. He was a true gentleman and wonderful role model.

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October 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My family and I express deepest sympathy to the family of Thomas Henning. Tom and I worked together for several years in the Geosciences Division of the Army Map Service and DMA. Tom was a very, very nice person and a truly dedicated scientist. It is with pride and gratefulness that I remember him. Thelma Cooley Robinson

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October 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Tom's passing. I knew him from his time at DigitalGlobe, and before then at NIMA, as always curious, always a gentleman, always insightful, and always a joy to be around.

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October 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ With Tom's passing, we are even more thankful for our mini Hennig reunion in San Antonio last year. It was a joyful time for cousins to renew relationships and share memories. We will remember him as he was that day...charming and delightful. We are truly saddened by his struggles and death. God give you and Tommy all the strength you need to deal with his loss.

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October 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To Lee Ann, Tommy and all of the family my deepest condolences. I was in Tommy's graduating Class '63 and was looking forward to seeing our classmates on our 50th reunion next year. We'll miss him!! God bless.

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October 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom was an outstanding leader of the SRTM team. It was a privilege to work for him. His careful attention to detail contributed much to the success of the SRTM flight. NGA and others will benefit greatly in the years to come from his efforts.

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October 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Be assured he is at rest and suffering no more.

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October 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom was a good and kind person. Based on my brief, but fortunate time working with him, I don't doubt, as so eloquently stated in the email I saw announcing his passing, that he is now enjoying learning about the mysteries of the Universe that he could only wonder about before.

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September 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Memories of good times were brought to mind when I read about your loss in the paper, Lee Ann. We share a love of all things celestial. You are in my thoughts. Sincerely, Drex George

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September 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Lee Ann and Tommy, We cannot fathom the depth of this loss. May all your memories be inspiring blessings and a guide to what is the finest that a human being can be. Sam and Rosanne

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September 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ We all will miss him, he was such a gentleman and a vital part of our family of space and sky enthusiasts along with his wonderful wife Lee Ann. His spirit and his achievements will never be forgotten and he will live on among the stars he loved so much. We all look up and thank him for being such an inspiring human being.*

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September 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ Worked with Tom for several years in DC. Tom was a great guy to work with, a true scholar and a gentleman. He will be sadly missed by many. My sincerest condolences to his family.*

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ I will miss my cousin Tommy. He was an inspiration and an influence in my love for astronomy and space. I always enjoyed visiting with him and am saddened by his passing. Lee Ann, Thomas, and all the family, you are in my prayers.*

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ Tom and I worked together many times over the years. He was a true gentleman, first rate professional, and valued colleague. Tom will be much missed by all who knew him.*

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ News of Tom's passing came as quite a shock. As NASA Project Scientist for the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission which Tom managed for NGA, I "arm-wrestled" with Tom for years over budgets, data policies, schedules, and all the other arcana involved in a space mission. Through it all it was clear that Tom's primary concern was always "doing the right thing", spending taxpayers money wisely, and producing the best possible project result. He won the respect of everyone at NASA, and will be greatly missed. All the best to his family and friends.

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We are truly sorry for your loss. The Pringle & Jerpi Family

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Words cannot say how much I will miss Tom. He was more like a brother to me than Pat's cousin. Each of our numerous visits to DC and your visits to Sugar Land made me see the sweet, kind and considerate guy Tom really was. He was truly one of the best people I have ever met. Lee Ann & Tommy, you have my deepest sympathy. Tom, may you rest in peace.

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Growing up with mothers who were not only sisters but best friends; all the family events and vacationing together as kids and then later as dads, you with Tommy and me with my girls; you were more like another brother than just a cousin. You are already missed. May the good Lord Bless You.

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Hennig family. I knew Tom through his son Tommy. Such a great father and a great role model.*

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September 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am very sorry to hear about Toms passing. Early on Tom and I were techno-wonks in the MC&G business he from the old AMS and I from the old ACIC in St. Louis. During the years, he and I collaborated on many joint projects between our agencies and collectively for the integrated DMA. Aside from work activities he and I shared a mutual interest in astronomy, catalyzed in our youth and carried on throughout our lifetime. During that period great strides have been made in astronomy and the emergence of cosmology. Thinking of Tom back I must smile because I always found Tom to enigmatic -- my favorite was his penchant for Snickers and Diet Coke. I well expect that sometime when I continue to observe the nighttime sky, whether with the naked eye or through a telescope I shall catch a glimpse of Tom looking back at me, winking and raising a Diet Coke in his right hand and a half wrapped Snickers bar in the other as he is about to enter a black holes event horizon to a new beginning.*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Lee Ann, On behalf of its entire membership, the Executive Board extends its deepest condolences to you and your family. Tom was a dear friend to many and a true leader. His professional accomplishments have left a mark on the organizations with which he was affiliated as well as the technical field in which he made his career. He will be missed by all. Please know that you are in our prayers and thoughts. For the Executive Board of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Alumni Association- East Chapter.*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *A remarkable individual I was privileged to know and work with.*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Like Tom, I was a fellow Pan Am graduate although he preceded me by several years. We became acquaintances through a small family of graduates and we shared daily and weekly emails about all things astronomy and thousands of other topics. Tom was a hardened conservative and I was a staunch liberal and our political rants to each other are legend. I always had the utmost respect for Tom and his beliefs and I will miss our head-butting more than anyone would believe possible. We were long lost cousins and I will miss him terribly. All my love to Lee Ann and Tommy. The only thing Tom loved more than pulling my political chain was to keep us up to date with his son's fencing accomplishments. Tommy, you made your father very proud. Lee Ann, Tom couldn't have had a better lifelong partner. There was a rainbow in the sky tonight, a fitting farewell to my friend.*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *LeeAnn & Tommy, our hearts were saddened to hear of Tom's passing. He was such a kind man, we are so thankful we got to know him. We would like to know of the service in Texas. We love you all & thank God we were able to meet y'all. You are special to us!!!!*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tommy and LeeAnn, I am so very sorry for your loss. I have memories of many enjoyable conversations with Tom while he patiently waited in the remote corners of fencing venues. He will be greatly missed by all who crossed his path in life. Tim Bookwalter

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Lee Ann and Tommy, I was saddened to learn of Tom's death. He remained a wonderful friend although we lived miles apart. I will think of him whenever I observe the wonders of the universe! May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Love and Blessings

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We will miss your humor and smile, but your spirit will be with us forever. On this Earth, you were the most honorable man we have ever had the pleasure of loving and have no doubt that will continue as you watch over us here on Earth. You are whole again, without pain, and at peace. God is Great.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I was a classmate of Tommy's in Sinton from first grade all the way through high school and also attended Grace Lutheran Church. I am so sorry for your loss. My condolences to all his family and friends.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Lee Ann and Tommy, Kim and I have you in our thoughts and prayers. We know he was a wonderful husband and father, and loved you both so dearly. While words cannot convey all of the feelings in our hearts, please know that if there is anything you need, please let us know. Love always, Shawn and Kim

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I was a classmate of Tom, though I knew him as Tommy. He was a pleasant fellow, but I don't remember interacting too much with him, however my memories of him is of a nice individual. I ran track with his brother William and I know that he will be missed because of his fine character. My condolences to his family and may the Lord God watch over you and comfort you.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tommy and Family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My heart goes out to you and my prayers are with you. God's peace, Stanton Brunner

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ It was an absolute pleasure to know Tom and it was an honor and a privilege to work with him. He will be sorely missed by all who had the opportunity to share time and smiles with Tom. Fair winds and following seas, Wm

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the honor and privilege to work for Tom during the SRTM era. A true leader of people, classy gentleman and consummate professional.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear about the loss of Tommy. I remember him as a quiet boy as we were growing up.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We have all lost a big brother and will miss him a lot. Your loss is one of a brave patriot and a life long friend and husband. May he rest in peace ! Chris and Linda Little

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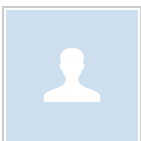
September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom, may you wake in a more pleasant dream! Rest well! Hank (PDO)

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear LeeAnn, My hope is that you find comfort and strength in your loving memories and in knowing that there are many people who care deeply about you and your family.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. We will miss him. I am honored to have known and worked with such a great person.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ LeeAnn: My prayers are with you and your son during this tough time. A long and happy marriage is a gift, and you are so lucky to have had one. All my best, Jennifer

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs. Hennig and Family, I am so sorry to hear about Tom. I used to work with him in Bethesda many moons ago. We all moved around so much that I lost track of him. I had no idea he had gone thru so much. I remember Tom as a kind, considerate, caring and soft spoken man with a very nice wit and charm. I know you and the family will miss him. My thoughts and prayers go out to each of you.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ For many years he was not only my boss but a friend. After our assignments parted us, he continued to keep in touch each year until recently. My condolences to all his family.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ I was utterly blessed to have you as an Uncle. You leave nothing but happy memories in your wake. I'll miss you more than I can say, you are certainly irreplaceable. God Speed Uncle Tom. I love you Aunt LeeAnn, Tommy and Uncle Tom. Love, Kimmy, Bryan, Lilliana and Joshua*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ I was very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Knowing and working with Tom was always a pleasure. RIP Tom!*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ Dear LeeAnn, All of our thoughts are with you, I hope that you find comfort in family and friends. I am so sorry for your loss. Anna Brown*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ Tom fought so hard these last few years and though it was probably hard to watch, he was an inspiration. I thank God for allowing me to be a small part of this family and to know how blessed we were to have known him. We send our heartfelt love to you, Lee Ann and Tommy. Tom loved you both so much and you were his everything. We will continue to lift you up in our prayers. Love, Peggy and Keith*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom was a friend, colleague, and teammate to many of us. It was my very great pleasure to work with him over the years at DMA, NIMA, and after his retirement. He was a always positive impact on the lives of so many, and a professional that all of us turned to. His accomplishment of the SRTM program is but a single example of the many contributions he made to our mission success and to the national security. He was our go to guy when it came to space and technology. We were all made better for having known Tom. He was a gentle soul, a kind man, and a patriot. Even now, his memory brings a smile. All the best to his family. May God bless. Mark

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Lee Ann and Tommy, May he rest in peace. Tom McNichol

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I will miss "my Tom" every day. It was always a great event each time I got to see Tom over the years when he would come back home to Texas. May the Good Lord bless & keep him, and may Perpetual Light shine upon him.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts are with you.

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Billy Joe was a real great person who I had the pleasure of knowing in high school. I still can see his smile. Rest in peace and I know you left a lot of great memories for your family.*

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September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers goto the family. Tom was a pleasure to work for, talk to, and simply know. The world is a better place because of you. I will never forget our conversations about the space shuttles and your love for the stars. I feel truly blessed to have known you.*

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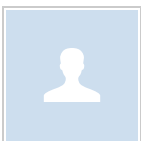
September 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Up, up the long, delirious burning blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace Where never lark, or ever eagle flew And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod The high untrespassed sanctity of space, Put out my hand, and touched the face of God." God speed, Tom. It was a privledge to know you, to have the gift of your friendship, and honor of your trust.*

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *LeeAnn and Tommy, Words cannot express our sadness and how much we will miss Tom. He was an extraordinary man and we're blessed to have called him a friend. Joan and Marty*

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom, Every interaction with you was wonderful, and I'm glad to have known you and your family. You and your wife have much to be proud of in your son. Rest in peace. Marcus

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My heartfelt sympathies. I knew Tom through work at DigitalGlobe. Tom was a wonderful person, true and honorable. May his grace in life be an inspiration to us all.

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to Tommy and Lee Ann. My link to Tom was through Pan American University and astronomy, and extended to the group e-mail exchange with a few old Pan Am astronomy majors. It was a very special and unique experience in having nearly daily contact with Tom for the last decade. He is a family member that will be greatly missed.

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I was sadden to learn of Tom's passing yesterday. He was a very good boss, co-worker, and friend. I will miss his soft Texas draw, wonderful smile, and very kind nature. Although we didn't see much of each other these last couple of years, I know when I look up at the Moon, Planets, and Stars tonight, he is up there continuing his investigation of the Universe. RIP, Tom, you will be missed!

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Hard to believe you're gone ole buddy. Dinner table dicussions at the Hennig house about the universe won't ever be the same. You left us all better for having known you and a beautiful legacy to carry your name on in Tommy. Rest well partner next time we see each other I'll have lots of questions. Jeff/Jane

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Please accept my condolences. We will all miss Tom's insight and passion, particularly about space - actually more about his pride in relaying Tommy's achievements! Tom moving on to the next journey is like a total eclipse here, which I hope he'd appreciate.

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ One of my two best friends in Sinton. I have notified the Class of 1963 via our email group.

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Very sorry to hear about Tom. He was a true gentleman, and I enjoyed seeing and speaking to him at fencing events over the years. My condolences to Tom, Lee Ann and the rest of the family.

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ With our greatest sympathies we offer our condolences to the family Tom left behind. With Joy we celebrate his passing into God's hands knowing he is at peace and we will all one day join him. Most Sincerely, Mark & Jennifer Heinzke (Bill Hennig's Step Son and Daughter-in-law)

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Lee Ann and Tommy, Evelyn and I are so sorry to hear the news of Tom's passing. Your family has been prayed for in every church we have visited in Italy and that will continue. I did not know Tom well while at Pan Am because of the age difference. The opportunity to become his daily friend through our group's astronomy email chats over the last 15 years was a great gift. Tom's brilliant insight into the field and his interest in our discussions were a true blessing. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. God bless, Robin

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I will miss you Uncle Tom! I have a lot of cherished memories from hanging with you and Lee Ann and Tommy. It is wonderful to know that you have moved on to a better place. Love and prayers to Aunt Lee Ann and Tommy.

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ I dont think I can possibly convey just how important Tom was in my life. He was a Senior at Pan American University and I a Freshman. He was my mentor. To give you some insight, Tom stepped into a building to call me on the night of the greatest meteor shower in American history to honor my request that he call should the shower deliver as promised. Meteors were pouring into the Earth's atmospere at a rate of 100,000 per hour and he stepped away to call a friend. I will miss him greatly and cherish our shared experiences.*

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ My deepest sympathy in your loss. Tom was one of the most brilliant and genteel people I have ever known. He was a pleasure to work with.*

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



*“ I will miss seeing Tom as Tommy's number one fan at fencing tournaments. My deepest condolences to Tommy, Lee Ann and family.*

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September 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM