



Mr. Thomas L. Walters

April 19, 1933 - July 23, 2024

After a full life of caring, compassion, generosity, and love, Thomas L. Walters was peacefully reunited with his Heavenly Father on July 23rd, 2024, at the age of 91, surrounded by his family.

Thomas was born in Washington, D.C., in 1933 and graduated from Bladensburg High School. He attended Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University and was a graduate of The Peabody Conservatory of Music in piano and organ performance as well as music education. He served his country in the 1st Infantry Division of the Army as a medic and eventually went on to direct one of the Army choirs. After the Army, he moved to Florida and taught Music at Ft. Myers Middle School and Edison Community College. Tom also served his faith community as organist and choirmaster at Redeemer Lutheran Church, followed by Saint Hilary's Episcopal Church. An ardent supporter of civil rights, Tom played an active role in the renovation and integration of schools, along with promoting the hiring of people of color into Southwest Florida's public education system.

After many years in the classroom, he was appointed Executive Director of the Lee County Alliance of the Arts, an organization he helped to create that promoted diverse cultural and artistic endeavors in the area, offering master classes and performances by dance companies, musicians, and visual artists from all over the world. Upon retiring from the Alliance, he assumed the role of

an educational liaison for his brother-in-law's company, Doron Precision Systems, a manufacturer of driver training simulators.

Thomas and his wife Barbara retired to Johnson City, TN in 1990 and enjoyed traveling the country and supporting the local arts community including symphonies, choirs, university performing groups and the UMOJA festival.

Thomas was predeceased by his parents, Lucian and Clara Walters, his sister, Alice Hart/Barnes, and his beloved wife of 54 years, Barbara Stearns Walters.

He is survived by his son Martin (Amy), grandson Adrian (Paige) and great-grandchildren Adeline and Flynn Walters, and daughter Allison Ellis (Nathan) and grandchildren Ashley (Kyle) Keating, Kelsey (Dennis) Compeau, and Alexis (Dallas) Elwood. Tom was also the "Adopted" Grandfather/Father to Joel McMackin, Alma Harvey, and Afif Combs. Tom had a tremendous love of animals and had many "grandpets" in his family as well.

In lieu of flowers, Donations can be made in Thomas Walter's name to the Washington County Animal Shelter wcjcanimalshelter.org

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **24**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church
2211 E Lakeview Dr
Johnson City, TN 37601
<http://stmarysjc.org>

The service will be conducted in the lower-level parish hall. In lieu of flowers, Donations can be made in Thomas Walter's name to the Washington County Animal Shelter wcjcanimalshelter.org

Tribute Wall

BK

“ Dear Martin, my deepest condolences to you and your family on the loss of your father. Such a wonderful man! May your many happy memories sustain you during this time of sorrow. ~~Belinda Kiener

Belinda Kiener - August 02, 2024 at 01:44 AM