

THOMAS MARSHALL PRATHER

(October 9, 2021)



Thomas Marshall Prather, age 81, passed on 10/09/2021 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC of a terrible trifecta, COPD, Congestive Heart Failure and Stage 4 Lung Cancer. He was born in January 1940, in Meadville, PA to Frank D. Prather and June Z. Prather Good. Tom graduated from Meadville Area Senior High School in 1957 and attended Duke University, graduating in 1960. **He then attended Law School at the University of Pennsylvania.** In 1960, he married Barbara of Ayden, NC. They were happily wed for 35 years. He practiced law in Meadville, PA before moving to Kinston, NC to work for DuPont, programming the giant early computers of the 60's. He finally settled in Wilmington, NC where he continued to work for DuPont as a Systems Analyst and later for DAK until he retired.

Tom was a loving family man who generously supported and encouraged his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed canoeing and white-water rafting with family on adventurous trips. He was a private pilot for many years and enjoyed taking his family for flights. He was a talented singer in high school and continued singing into more recent years with the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church choir. Tom's church family at Wesley was an important source of strength for him. He taught Sunday School to his peers for several decades and participated in several "Walks to Emmaus". In addition to spiritual fitness, Tom has always been physically fit. He dominated the tennis court from his teens to his 40's, became an avid runner and speed walker in his 30's and 40's, hiked parts of the Appalachian Trail in his 50's, and joined the Wrightsville Beach Loopers in his 50's only putting away his walking shoes 2 years ago, when his lungs no longer allowed his walking habit to continue. During his walks, he befriended neighbors as well as all the dogs he met, carrying treats to encourage even the shyest dogs to look forward to him walking by. Tom was a beekeeper for many years and volunteered for the New Hanover County Extension Service collecting unwanted swarms from the yards and homes of local homeowners. He was a loyal friend and a man of great integrity, generosity, tenacity and spirituality and will be deeply missed.

Tom is survived by his son, Mark Prather (Susan) of Wilmington, NC, his daughter, Leah Hanley (Dan) of Niwot, CO, and Son-in-law, Steve Strazis of Rougemont, NC; Siblings Patricia Pineo (Bill), Frank Lee Prather (Teri) and Sally Kyvernitis (George); Grandchildren Ellen and Caroline Strazis, Thomas and Will Prather, and Jared and Ethan Hanley; Great Granddaughter Emory Strazis; along with numerous nieces and nephews (JD, Ross and Kate; Tom and Caleb; Adam and Megan; Chris, Frank and Maria).

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Barbara, daughter Kim Strazis, brothers Bill and Mark and sister Mary Sue, and nephews Ross and Isaac Pineo.

Services on Friday, October 15 include a visitation (2pm) and memorial service (3pm) at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church on 1401 S. College Rd. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the New Hanover Humane Society on 2405 N. 23rd St., Wilmington, NC 28401. Posted online on October 13, 2021. Published in Wilmington Star-News