



Tarheel Central Chapter



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Dr. Thomas Eugene Stump obituary, Winston-Salem, NC



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Thomas Eugene Stump

Dr. Thomas Eugene Stump ("Tom"), 93, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 3, 2026. A beloved and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Tom will be missed immeasurably by all who knew and loved him. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Shirley; his sister, JoAnn Epler; his brother-in-law, Lonny Seitz; his sons, Norm (Angie) and Neal (Jennifer); his daughters, Julie Mudge (Dave) and Debbie Combs (John); 10 grandchildren; and

four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Sandy Seitz.

Tom was born in York, Pennsylvania, to Beatrice Evelyn Markle Stump and Ralph Eugene Stump. He attended William Penn High School in York, where he served as class president for three years before graduating in June 1951. With his sights set on becoming a dentist, Tom attended Franklin & Marshall College for two years on a full academic scholarship before enrolling at Temple University School of Dentistry. He graduated at the top of his class in June 1957.

As a participant in the U.S. Navy's Ensign 1195 Program, Tom graduated from dental school as a lieutenant in the Navy and was accepted into the Dental Internship Program at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. Upon completion of the program, he was assigned to a two-year tour of duty aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA-42) with the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. During this deployment, Tom married his fiancée, Shirley Oakes, on June 17, 1959. The couple had met while he was stationed in Portsmouth, Virginia. Their wedding ceremony was held aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt while it

was in port in Palermo, Sicily. They honeymooned throughout Europe, visiting Rome, Munich, Garmisch, Zurich, Geneva, Zermatt, and Barcelona.

At the conclusion of his sea duty, Tom was reassigned to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Dental Clinic in San Diego, California. While there, he and Shirley welcomed their twin sons, Norm and Neal. Tom was then deployed to Atsugi, Japan, for three years, where their daughter Julie was born. Tom later entered the Navy's Oral Surgery Residency Program, completing his first year in Bethesda, Maryland, and the remaining two years in Great Lakes, Illinois, where their fourth child, Debbie, was born.

Upon completing his residency, Tom was deployed to the South China Sea during the Vietnam War, serving two tours of duty aboard the hospital ships USS Repose (AH-16) and USS Sanctuary (AH-17), where he treated combat-related injuries. During this deployment, Shirley and the children lived in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

After returning to the U.S., Tom was briefly stationed at Naval Operations Base in Norfolk, VA, the world's largest naval base, before returning to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, VA as Chief of the Dental Department. There, he supervised the training programs for first-year General Dentistry residents and third-year Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residents. During his tenure in Portsmouth, Tom co-authored the book *Management of War Injuries to the Jaws and Related Structures*, published by the Naval Medical Research Institute, Department of the Navy.

He also earned a master's degree in education from George Washington University, graduating first in his class. Tom spent the final four years of his distinguished 22-year Navy career at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Annapolis, Maryland, a prestigious assignment. He retired from the Navy with the rank of Captain.

Following his military retirement, Tom was recruited by the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to establish and serve as the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon for its newly created Department of Dentistry. From 1979 to 1998, he provided both clinical care and instruction to future healthcare professionals. He later joined the private oral and maxillofacial surgery practice of Dr. James Walter and Dr. Michael Whitehouse, where he practiced until his retirement in 2002. Throughout his more than three decades as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Tom regularly attended professional conferences throughout the United States and abroad and was frequently invited to speak.

Even in retirement, Tom continued to serve others. He volunteered as an oral surgeon at the Community Care Center in Winston-Salem, providing care for indigent dental and medical patients. He also participated in multiple medical and dental mission trips to Mexico (2) and Peru (3).

Tom enjoyed playing tennis, traveling, photography, teaching, volunteering, gardening, and spending time with family and friends. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Wake Forest University athletics and especially loved competing in duplicate bridge tournaments with Shirley. Together, they earned the distinguished rank of Life Master in the American Contract Bridge League.

Tom was an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather, brother, surgeon, teacher, mentor, and friend. His selflessness, kindness, and unwavering dedication to caring for others touched countless lives. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, former patients, residents, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A memorial service will be held at Knollwood Baptist Church, 330 Knollwood St. Winston-Salem, NC 27104 on Saturday, August 15th at 11am. Arrangements are entrusted to James Funeral Home, 10520 Arahova Dr. Huntersville, NC, 704-584-9004. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the following charitable organizations:

§ Smile Train (<https://www.smiletrain.org>)

§ Doctors Without Borders (<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org>)

Memories and condolences may be shared at <https://www.JamesFuneralHomeLKN.com>

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Note: Tom was a Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA member from at least January 2003.