



Thomas Parker Fitzsimmons

December 4, 1944 – November 8, 2014

(From Pivont Funeral Home November 2014)

Thomas Parker Fitzsimmons, 69, of Hinton, WV, passed away Saturday, November 8, 2014, at CAMC Memorial Division following an extended illness. Born December 4, 1944, in Hinton, WV, he was the son of the late James Thomas and Sara Parker Fitzsimmons

Tom was a life-long resident of Summers County, WV, leaving only to attend school and for military service. He graduated from Hinton High School in 1962 where he served as president of the senior class. He attended West Virginia Tech, leaving one semester before graduation to join the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Conflict. He served 13 months in South Korea and the remainder of his service at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery Alabama.

While in Alabama, Tom attended Troy State University where he completed his BS degree and also received a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counselling. He later obtained a second Master's Degree in School Administration from the West Virginia School of Graduate Studies, and was also certified as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Tom married Carolyn Saunders in 1967 after a long friendship that started in elementary school. After the completion of his military service in Alabama, Tom

and Carolyn returned to Summers County in 1972 where the two lived, worked, and became the parents of Sara Fern and Thomas. He was a member of the Ascension Episcopal Church in Hinton.

Tom was employed by the Summers County School System for 30 years. During his tenure with the school system, he served a year as Superintendent of Schools and three years as Principal of Hinton High School, but spent most of his years in the post of High School Guidance Counselor. By providing support to all students at the high school, Tom's greatest satisfaction came from assisting students to make appropriate college choices, obtain admission to the college of their choice, and to pursue their educational dreams.

He helped encourage and establish a growing scholarship program for graduates of Hinton and Summers County High Schools. He worked most closely with the Fife Scholars Program, and until his death, maintained contact with those students who received scholarships. Tom believed that students of Summers County are capable of achieving great things, and many of them have proved him right.

After retiring from the school system in 2001, Tom worked an additional seven years for FMRS as a mental health therapist. After retiring fully, he enjoyed working on his family history and various home improvement projects. Besides his parents, Tom was preceded in death by brother, James Robert Fitzsimmons, step-mother Esther Reed Fitzsimmons, and parents-in-law, Charles and Enola Saunders.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Saunders Fitzsimmons, one daughter, Sara Fern Lingenfelter and husband Robert of State College, PA; one son, Thomas Saunders Fitzsimmons and wife Lindsay of Scott Depot, WV, and one grandson, Jacob Thomas Fitzsimmons.

He is also survived by sister-in-law Seiko Fitzsimmons and niece Monica Fitzsimmons of Victorville, CA; step-sister Sandra Mitchell of Kettering, OH; cousins, Barry Fitzsimmons, Betty Gray DeMonic, Tom Parker, Mary Moore, Augusta Whitacre, Kathryn Thompson, Jo Ellen Kenney, Hunter Parker, and Robert Parker; and their families.

Tom considered the Saunders Family his family and is survived by brother-in-law Charles Saunders and wife Debbie; sister-in-law Sandra Lowe and husband Glenn; and his sister-in-law Ronda Rowan and husband Rodney; and their families.

Services will be held at 1pm, Saturday, November 15, at Pivont Funeral Home in Hinton, WV with Pastor Ron Cobb officiating. Burial will follow in Greenbrier Burial Park in Hinton. Friends may call from 6-8pm Friday evening at Pivont Funeral Home in Hinton, and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Tom Parker, Charles Saunders, Glenn Lowe, Rod Rowan, Patton Lowe, Preston Lowe, Zachary Saunders, David Milburn, Brian Milburn, Ron Bugg, Lesley Vest, and Scott Bryson.

While any expression of sympathy is appreciated, memorials may be sent to the Fife Scholars Scholarship, c/o Hinton Area Foundation, PO Box 217, Hinton, WV 25951, or online at <http://hintonareafoundation.com/> by designating the Fife Scholars Fund.