



Thomas Calvin Lawing

March 29, 1956 - February 17, 2021

Thomas Calvin Lawing, 64, of Waxhaw, NC passed away on February 17, 2021 at UNC Chapel Hill. Tom, as he was known by family and friends, was born on March 29, 1956 in Charlotte, NC to the late Priscilla Diane Ferguson and Robert Calvin Lawing. Tom was married to his best friend and love of his life, Jackie Melton Lawing for 42 years, having married on June 17, 1978.

He received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) in 1978 and the U.S. Army War College in 1999. Tom was active duty in the Army from 1978 – 1984 and then went on to serve in the Army National Guard from 1984 – 2007 where he achieved the rank of Brigadier General. He served one tour of duty in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom (October 26, 2004 – January 4, 2006). Tom was Commander of the 30th Engineer Brigade from September 2001 until September 2006 and then went on to become Assistant Adjutant General in December 2006.

Upon retirement from active duty in the Army in 1984, Tom became employed with Southern Bell (now AT&T) where he worked for over 36 years until his passing. In addition to having a professional engineers license, Tom was a highly decorated member of the Army and received the following major awards and decorations: Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 oak leaf cluster), Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with 2 oak leaf clusters), National Defense Service Medal (with bronze service star), Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon and Parachute Badge.

During his free time, he liked to read, study genealogy, work on projects around the house, help others, continually try to learn new things and he loved relaxing on the patio with his wife and two dogs. He loved to travel, especially to St. John, and on family vacations to the beach. He was known by his four grandchildren as Papa and they each brought him great joy.

His friends and family remember Tom as an honorable man who loved God, his family, his two dogs (Casey and Bella) and loved serving his country. He was a caring, humble man, with a quiet strength and natural leadership qualities. He approached life with a sense of humor and was always trying to find ways to make people smile.

Tom had always said he wanted to be remembered by his loved ones as a person who loved them and was always there for them. He wanted to be remembered by others as an honest, trustworthy, caring person for “who he was”, not what position he was in. In other words he wanted to be remembered as Tom Lawing who was a general and worked for Bell South instead of General Tom Lawing or Director Tom Lawing.

In addition to his loving wife, Jackie Melton Lawing, Tom is survived by son Jason and his wife Ashley Lawing; daughter Kelly Gallo; and grandsons Hunter Gallo, Ryder Gallo, Jaxon Lawing and granddaughter Avery Lawing; sister Cathy Tench and step mother Nell Simpson Lawing. He was predeceased by his parents and brother Christopher Lawing.

A memorial service with military honors to celebrate Tom’s life will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at Forest Hill Church (Waxhaw) with burial to follow at Forest Lawn East Cemetery, 3700 Forest Lawn Drive, Matthews, NC 28104. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions may be made in Tom’s memory to Forest Hill Church (Waxhaw), 8120 Kensington Drive, Waxhaw, NC 28173 OR The American Lung Association --- Please visit: www.americanlungassociationassn.org and click on ways to donate.

Cemetery

Forest Lawn East

3700 Forest Lawn Drive
Matthews, NC, 28104

Events

MAR **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

13

Forest Hill Church

8120 Kensington Drive, Waxhaw, NC, US, 28173

Comments



“ I was planning to retire as my job was being moved to Tucker, Ga. Tom asked me twice to come to work for him and I did. Tom was one of the most intelligent, down to earth and nicest managers I ever worked for. It was indeed a privilege to learn from such a man of honor. He loved his family, and I had the utmost respect for him. RIP, Tom.

Martha Misenheimer - March 12 at 08:53 PM



“ AT&T purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Calvin Lawing.



AT&T - March 08 at 10:37 AM



“ I was fortunate to server under COL Lawing when he was commander of the 505th Engr Bn. COL Lawing was the epitome of what a leader is. I was studying Mechanical Engineering at UNCC at night during this time, one Saturday at drill, the COL observed me working on a problem, pulled up a chair, and offered some guidance and support. Not many Battalion Commanders would have taken the time to explain some kinematics to a young E-5. My condolences to his family.

Brad Miller - March 03 at 01:10 PM



“ Another of America's Heroes gone way to soon. I served with BG Lawing when he was my Battalion Commander as a LT. COL with the 505th Engineer Combat Battalion in Gastonia. Great common sense leader who never forgot the Privates doing the grunt work. He set the example, held Soldiers accountable and always led from the front. R.I.P., Mission Complete, Welcome Home Thy Good and Faithful Servant.

1SG (R) Donnie Loftis - March 01 at 05:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Calvin Lawing.



March 01 at 09:03 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. Having served with Tom for many years I knew him to be just as he was described in the obituary. A respected and humble leader who was authentic in his concern for others while focused on completing any tasks or challenge. A true patriot who served his country unselfishly and obviously loved and took great loving care of his family. Praying for peace and comfort for his family.

Mickey Bradley - February 28 at 11:54 AM



“ Salute to a great mentor and friend. I tried calling Tom last week but his number had changed. Thank you sir for mentoring me throughout my military career. May the Holy Spirit grant comfort and peace of heart to all Tom’s family, friends and those of us who served with him in peace and war. Amen

LTC (Ret) Cecil V. Nance - February 27 at 10:28 PM



“ I worked for Tom at Bellsouth was a pleasure to work for him. Will be missed.

Jim Estridge - February 26 at 01:14 PM



“ Tom was my second level supervisor for a period of time at ATT. I have great respect for him, he was a very good person

Jerry Argo - March 07 at 03:50 PM



“ Worked for Tom for a period of time ATT. I have great respect for him. A great person

Jerry Argo - March 07 at 03:54 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Tom in Charlotte. I remember he always had a smile and a Hello or Good Morning or Afternoon to all that he encountered. I remember just sitting at my desk working on the computer and the next thing I would know is Tom would be right behind me. Never hearing him. I always told him he needed to have change in his pocket so I would know he was coming. He will be truly missed.

Sharon Mahr

Sharon Mahr - February 24 at 05:30 PM



“ I had the great pleasure to work for Tom twice. Once when he was area manager and then again when he was a director. As his family, I don't need to tell you what a great man he was. Without Tom, I would not have been an area manager the past 17 years. The most upfront and honest manager I have had in 35 years. And his dry wit was wonderful.

john c rayne - February 24 at 02:41 PM