

### **Thomas Andrew Furtsch Obituary**

b. 2 November 1939, Roanoke, VA – d. 8 March 2024, md **Jennifer (Williams) Furtsch**. Thomas Andrew Furtsch, s/o **Edward Frank Furtsch** (1906-1987) & **Catherine Jane Kline** (1906-1998), both buried in Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg, Montgomery Co., VA

Tom Furtsch, 84, passed away Friday March 8, 2024, after a brief illness. Tom was born November 2, 1939 in Roanoke, Virginia and raised in Blacksburg by his parents



Catherine Jane Kline (1906-1998) and Edward Frank Furtsch (1906-1987). He graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1957 and attended the University of Michigan where he earned a BS in Chemistry. After receiving a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin, Tom settled in Cookeville in 1971. **He had a fulfilling career as a professor of chemistry at the Tennessee Technological University where his passion was teaching the history of science. After his retirement in 2011, he began a new**

**adventure opening Father Tom's Pub.** Tom was energized by his daily interactions with friends and staff at the Pub. Tom enjoyed travelling with his wife, playing golf, talking about politics and current events, his many beloved pets, and listening to loud classical music.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Cynthia Furtsch Kitchen of Virginia Beach, VA. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Jennifer Williams, daughters Alison Furtsch Aytes (Jonathan) of Knoxville, TN and Christa Furtsch Rogers (S.R.) of Charlotte, NC.

There will be no formal services, but Tom's family will receive friends and share stories Sunday, March 17, from 1-3 pm at Father Tom's Pub, 32 N. Cedar, Cookeville.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that you honor Tom's memory by donating to, or volunteering with: A.A.R.F. of Cookeville, 377 W. Jackson St#11, Cookeville, TN 38501, (aarf-tn.com), or the Cookeville Putnam County Animal Shelter, 2650 Gainesboro Grade, Cookeville, TN 38501 (cookeville-tn.gov/Animal-Shelter), or any Liberal or Progressive political campaign you support, especially by being sure to vote. And finally, remember Tom by being kind to one another and enjoying the small moments with the people you love.

Hooper-Huddleston & Horner is assisting with arrangements (931)526-6111.

\*See Schoolyard Tales for more about Tennessee Technological University "TTU" at:

<https://www.ajlambert.com>

<https://www.ajlambert.com/school.htm>