

Thomas Spurgeon

August 29, 1938 - March 28, 2026

Thomas Spurgeon (Tom), 87, of Peoria Heights, Illinois and most recently, Washington, Illinois, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2026. Born on August 29, 1938, in Columbus, Indiana, he lived a life marked by service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to his community, his country, and people he loved.

A proud graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management, Tom went on to earn an MBA from Indiana University and later completed the Executive Program at Stanford University. He began his career with notable distinction as a Nuclear Weapons Officer in the U.S. Army with the Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA). He was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Purdue.

Throughout his professional life, Tom held numerous leadership roles, including President & CEO of Lincoln Office, Chairman of Cosco, President of L.R. Nelson, President of Gott Corporation, and General Manager at Cummins Engine Company. He was an owner of Coyote Creek Golf Club. Tom's professional excellence and business acumen earned him the respect of peers and colleagues across industries.

Tom was deeply devoted to civic and charitable service. Over the years, he served and contributed to a wide array of organizations, including Purdue

University Board of Trustees (2005-2020), Unity Point Hospital, Bradley University, Southwestern College, Central Illinois Public Television, Methodist Church, Children's Hospital of Illinois, Hult Health Education, Easter Seals, American Red Cross, Peoria Symphony Orchestra, Peoria Chamber of Commerce, Heart of Illinois United Way, Central Illinois Community Foundation, Purdue Alumni Association, and Indiana University Business Alumni.

Tom's lifetime of contributions earned him numerous honors, including an Honorary Degree from St. John's College, induction into the Columbus High School Hall of Fame, membership in Phi Gamma Delta fraternity at Purdue, and Beta Gamma Sigma at Indiana University.

Beyond his professional and civic achievements, Tom was known for his love of golf and cherished winters spent at his home in Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Arizona. His warmth, generosity, and integrity touched everyone fortunate enough to know him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Joy Spurgeon; his children, Eric Spurgeon, Delia Spurgeon, Chad (Amanda) Cline and Ty Cline; his sister, Myra (William) Stinnett; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Tom will be remembered for his dedication, compassion, strong leadership, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others.

Tom's funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at First United Methodist Church in Peoria, with visitation at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Rev. Dr. Tim Ozment will officiate. A graveside service, with military honors, will be held at 2:00 p.m. (EST) on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at Garland Brook Cemetery in Columbus, Indiana. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria is assisting

the family.

For those who are unable to attend Tom's service, it will be available at <https://firstunitedmethodistchurchpeoriail.subspla.sh/t2m4mvs> for you to watch from home.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Peoria. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Garland Brook Cemetery

501 N. Gladstone Ave
Columbus, IN 47201

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
116 NE Perry Ave
Peoria, IL 61603-3624
(309) 673-3641

Funeral Service

APR 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
116 NE Perry Avenue
Peoria, IL

Burial with Military Honors

APR 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

Garland Brook Cemetery
501 N. Gladstone Ave
Columbus, IN 47201

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Spurgeon



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 15 at 01:21 PM

NR

“ I am so sorry for your loss . My husband Alex Rinehart (Caterpillar)who has passed away worked with Tom and thought highly of him ! Alex always enjoyed his lunches with Tom !With my deepest sympathy-Nancy Rinehart

Nancy Rinehart - April 10 at 11:36 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Spurgeon.

April 07 at 06:41 PM



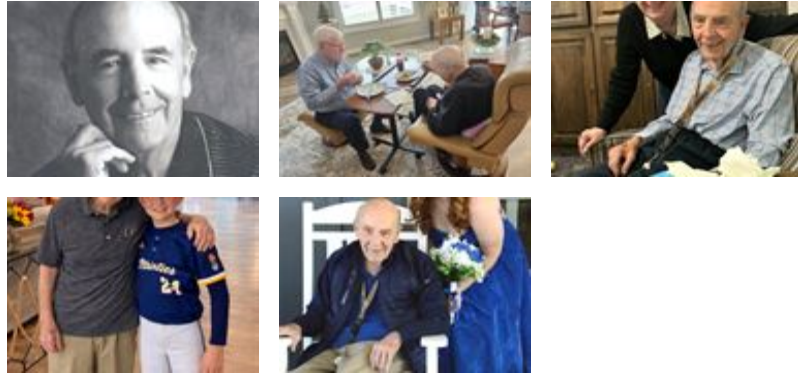
“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Spurgeon.



April 07 at 06:41 PM



“ 25 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 07 at 02:00 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Thomas Spurgeon*.

April 04 at 08:36 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of *Thomas Spurgeon*.



April 04 at 08:36 PM



“ *Eric* purchased the *Florist Choice Bouquet* for the family of *Thomas Spurgeon*.



Eric - April 04 at 11:13 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Spurgeon.*



April 03 at 01:35 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I first met Tom in 1998. Tom was not only my mentor but a true friend. Tom had a gift for helping people see their potential—I was one of the lucky ones. I feel incredibly grateful to have known him. Joy, please know I'm thinking of your family during this time. Greg Klemm*

Greg Klemm - April 02 at 05:12 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Thomas Spurgeon.*



April 02 at 10:56 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Thomas Spurgeon.*



April 02 at 10:35 AM

LI

“ *Very sorry for your loss Joy and your families. I have thought about Tom often after I retired. He was a pleasure to be around. He was the owner of Lincoln Office when I was hired on there in 1996 and worked at the Options Retail store of Lincoln Office. He would stop in on Saturdays with his dog and we would talk for a little while. He will be missed.*

Linda Isom - April 01 at 12:57 PM

MH

“ *I am so sorry for your loss Joy and families! Hugs and prayers for your families!*
Marsha Knollenberg Hermes

Marsha Knollenberg Hermes - March 31 at 10:50 PM