



Thomas Leroy Elliott Jr 1941-2019

Thomas Leroy Elliott Jr was born September 9, 1941, in Barstow, California, the first-born son to Helen & Tom Elliott Sr.

Tom enjoyed hiking in the desert, exploring mines, and joking with his brother Ken. After graduating from Barstow H.S. in 1959, he attended Whittier College and later transferred to San Francisco State, where he met his wife to-be Carol McCain, and they married in San Diego on September 1, 1964.

In April, 1969 he and Carol followed their dream of wilderness living to Kenny Lake, AK. Tom – without power tools – built a log cabin. This desert boy learned to trap and hunt and stay warm cutting cords of firewood. Come spring, he cleared land for a garden and tended it, ran a fish wheel on the Copper River, and worked whatever odd jobs were available; electrician's assistant, firefighter, cook at the Copper river Road Hose, and surveyor.

In 1971 son Nathan was born in Glennallen.

In 1973 Tom made 2 decisions that affected the rest of his life. His temporary surveying job at the Gulkana airport led to a permanent position as an engineer's assistant in Anchorage. Accepting that job necessitated giving up the wilderness for city life. More importantly, he gave his life to Jesus Christ and became a child of God.

In 1975 daughter Theresa was born.

The family lived in Nunaka Valley until 1981, when they moved to Eagle River, and later to Peters Creek in 1997.

Tom Served as AWANA leader, deacon, elder, Sunday school teacher, and small group Bible study leader. He worshiped at Berean Bible Fellowship (now Baxter Road Bible Church), First Baptist Church of Birchwood (now The Crossing), and Peters Creek Baptist Church.

Tom retired from the State of Alaska Division of Aviation in 2000. Thereafter, he was thankful for unlimited time to share with his grandchildren and to pursue his hobbies. He enjoyed hiking in the woods, growing vegetables, keeping chickens, and had a passion for beekeeping. His goal was to develop a winter-hardy strain

of bees that could survive Alaska winters. The honey was minor compared to his pleasure working with the bees. He taught classes and aspiring beekeepers sought his advice.

In March of last year Tom wrote:

I have been diagnosed with incurable colon cancer. I am not especially happy about this, but it is not a great calamity in my life. I am 76 years old and my life has given me an amazing array of gifts. I have been given a truly wonderful wife, two great kids, and a bunch of grand kids who are truly grand. I have also been given a bunch of friends for whom I am thankful.

Most of all I have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. This last year is the very best that I could ever have wished for. Being a child of the Almighty God is a great, even a wonderful thing. I would wish for that joy to all of my loved ones, friends, and even acquaintances. I welcome your prayers as you see fit, but my prayer is for the will of God in my life as He knows best.

The afternoon of March 12, 2018, at Providence Hospital with his wife at his side, Tom departed his mortal body for his eternal home. He is presently seeing his savior face-to-face and is most likely rejoicing and dancing with granddaughter Katie.

Tom is remembered for his integrity, his love and kindness, forgiving spirit, his ever-present humor, and his bushy eyebrows.

Surviving family are his wife of 54 years, Carol, son Nathan Elliott, daughter Theresa Myers; grandchildren Joshua Farmer, SGT Jordan Elliott, Catherine Elliott, Ryan Vincent, and Taylor Conway; great-grandchildren Devan Heineken, Emma Morckel, and Jordan Elliott Jr' mother Helen Elliott; brother Ken Elliott.