



## Tom Lawson

September 26, 1958 - July 31, 2019

Thomas (“Tom”) Nelson Lawson, 60, of Huntersville, passed away peacefully on July 31, 2019, with his family by his side. Tom serenely confronted every day of his courageous ten-month battle against aggressive cancer by observing, “Every day is a good day.” A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at the chapel of James Funeral Home in Huntersville on Saturday August 10, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Tom’s family will receive friends at a reception immediately following the service. A private committal service will be held at NorthLake Memorial Gardens.

Tom was born September 26, 1958 in Charlotte. Growing up in Gastonia, he had a childhood filled with love and laughter, family gatherings, friends, church, and Boy Scouting, where he attained the rank of Eagle. His summers abounded with neighborhood adventures, kick the can, beloved dogs, Camp Carolina, and Lake Norman. In his teens, Tom explored Europe with friends and participated in a rigorous Swiss mountain climbing school. After college, his family took annual SCUBA-diving trips to the Cayman Islands for over 30 years. His crowning achievement in diving was shepherding his father, then ninety years old, on a dive over ninety feet deep.

In 1980 Tom graduated from Clemson and in 1985 he met Teri, the love of his life, in New Orleans. They were married in 1988 in the beautiful foothills of the Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, amid family and friends, and they began their 31 happy years together by travelling to France, Switzerland, Belgium and Italy on a storybook honeymoon. Tom and Teri raised two amazing sons and three cherished West Highland Terriers. They shared many of the same interests, and traveled together to Grand Cayman, Mexico, the Bahamas, and Europe. A highlight of their recent travels, prior to Tom’s illness, was touring England, Scotland and Ireland. Tom was a wonderful husband and devoted father, who will be missed by Teri and the boys tremendously.

Tom had a natural talent for understanding how things worked and fixing them. He thrived in a thirty-nine year career as a civil engineer, the majority of which he spent working with Contech focused on bridge construction in the Carolinas. Tom brought humor, intelligence and curiosity to his work and volunteer commitments. He was a Paul Harris Fellow and sustaining member of the Lake Norman/Huntersville Rotary Club. He truly embodied the

ethos of Rotary – Service Above Self. Tom had a passion for the outdoors and served as an Assistant Scoutmaster of Huntersville’s Troop 19 for two decades. He mentored the Troop’s newer Assistant Scoutmasters and guided over 300 boys through Scouting, many of those attaining the rank of Eagle.

Tom was kind, witty, hard-working, devoted and, most of all, completely selfless. He left a good life – a full life – too early. All those who knew and loved Tom are deeply saddened by his departure.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Teri Brison Lawson, and sons Thomas Nelson Lawson, Jr of Mooresville and Tyler Smith Lawson of Huntersville. He is also survived by his father, William David Lawson, III of Gastonia; his sisters, Margaret Lawson Headrick (Russell), of Boone and Susan Lawson zumBrunnen (John) of Charlotte; his brother, William David Lawson IV (Emiliana Vegas) of Naples, Florida; Mother-in-Law, Dean Brison; brothers-in-law, John Brison (Holly) and Dan Brison (Karen); and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and aunts. Tom’s mother, Elizabeth (Betsy) Lawson, predeceased him.

Tom’s family is grateful to all those who cared for Tom with compassion over the course of his illness, including the staff at the Levine Cancer Institute Charlotte, Atrium Emergency and ICU Charlotte, St. Vincent’s Hospital (Green Bay, Wisconsin), Novant Hospital Huntersville, and Levine & Dickson Hospice House Huntersville. Tom’s business colleagues graciously provided Tom an Angel Flight Med Jet to transport him from Green Bay back to Charlotte during his last illness.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Rotary Foundation, PO Box 2306, Huntersville, NC 28070; or the Levine & Dickson Hospice House, 11900 Vanstory Dr, Huntersville, NC 28078.

Many thanks to Pastor Mitch White and the community at Lake Forest Church for their ongoing prayers and support.

James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the family.  
[www.jamesfuneralhomeLKN.com](http://www.jamesfuneralhomeLKN.com)

# Cemetery

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## NorthLake Memorial Gardens

11001 Alexanderana Road  
Huntersville, NC, 28078

# Events

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**AUG 10 Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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James Funeral Home  
10520 Arahova Dr P.O. Box 3434, Huntersville, NC,  
US, 28078

**AUG 10 Reception** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

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James Funeral Home  
10520 Arahova Dr P.O. Box 3434, Huntersville, NC,  
US, 28078

# Comments

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“ My heart goes out to Tom’s wife, Terri and his sons Thomas and Tyler... as it does to his sisters and the rest of his loving family and friends.

I only knew Tom through the many wonderful things his loving sister, Susan, shared with me over the many years of our friendship. Her words painted a picture of a kind, loving, and generous man of grace and dignity. In that picture, I saw a courageous man... that even though the great ordeal of dealing with cancer, his positive outlook, and faith in hope astounded me as I’m sure it served as an inspiration to many who will continue to love and cherish Tom.

James Randall Chumbley

James Randall Chumbley - September 06 at 11:07 AM

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“ With sadness I write these thoughts to Teri and family. Julie and I pray for you during this difficult times. Tom was always ready willing and prepared to do what it took to get something done. We will miss his can do spirit. Tom demonstrated routinely he was a consummate professional and leader. He made significant contributions to his community by virtue of his involvement with our Rotary Club. His contributions helped the needy, those that were sick and infirmed. He also supported our efforts to feed the family's in the community during the Holiday's and make sure the less fortunate had gifts for Christmas and spread a bit of cheer. Countless times he greeted us upon arrival for our meetings with a smile and his wit. He could be a bit mischievous and that was part of his charm. We always had great fun working with him at our Wine event as he manned the wine station and he would kid me about the pour he gave being a bit more than what was allowed. Tom tackled life like any project we worked on .... with enthusiasm and vigor.

We will miss him dearly and know his spirit with be with you and smiling upon us. We are all better people because he touched our lives.

May he be at rest.

Dan & Julie Mills

Dan Mills - August 10 at 10:06 AM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Tom Lawson.



August 09 at 03:52 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Tom Lawson.



August 09 at 12:19 PM

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“ Love, Lu Anne Workman purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Tom Lawson.



Love, Lu Anne Workman - August 09 at 10:29 AM

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“ Philip Byrd and Associates at Hayward Baker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Tom Lawson.



Philip Byrd and Associates at Hayward Baker - August 08 at 04:27 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tom Lawson.



August 08 at 03:25 PM

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“ Colejenest & Stone purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Tom Lawson.



**Colejenest & Stone** - August 08 at 11:04 AM

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“ Sentimental Dreams was purchased for the family of Tom Lawson.



August 07 at 04:00 PM

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“ Steve & Juli Weidle purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Tom Lawson.



**Steve & Juli Weidle** - August 07 at 10:44 AM

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“ Your Pomona Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Tom Lawson.



**Your Pomona Family** - August 07 at 10:33 AM

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“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tom Lawson.



August 06 at 09:04 AM

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“ It is with great sadness that I write this. Tom was a true professional in everything he did and a loyal friend. I worked side by side Tom for the past 29 yrs but especially closely with him for the past several yrs. Tom's voice messages would say..."Hey Doug, Tom, just checking in." He was on top of everything, and remained positive through his cancerous ordeal. He was a true inspiration to me and will be sorely missed. Tom's teamwork with Chris Beaty/Pomona was second to none and should be modeled. Karen and I send our sincerest condolences to Teri, the boys and the rest of the Lawson family. Tom, going forward I'll be the one saying..."Hey Tom, Doug, just checking in." Lots of bridges and scout stuff in heaven now!!

**Doug Todd** - August 05 at 05:43 PM

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“ To the Lawson family--  
I was so sad to hear about Thomas' passing--how tragic and to be so young. It was nice to read his obituary to hear how well he grew up, since the days of "kick the can" in Armstrong Circle! I was especially pleased to hear how involved he was in Rotary. Thinking of you,  
Lillian Dickson

**Lillian Dickson** - August 04 at 08:25 PM

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“ Please accept my condolences for Thomas' passing. Thomas and I were friends from pre-school all the way through high school at Gaston Day. We graduated in 1976. It was a very small class and everybody knew each other well. Thomas was a great person who we all knew would be successful and leave his mark. I never heard him say a mean word about anyone or any thing. He was a positive, humble person. I've tried to attach a photo of when I first knew him; First Presbyterian Church on Garrison Blvd in Gastonia, pre-school from 1963 - 1964. Thomas is second from the end on top left with his hands on his knees. That was pretty high up for those years and Thomas was a little more tenuous about heights but always found the courage to take it on. It was a privilege and honor to watch Thomas grow from a little boy to a young adult. He was one of the good guys.-Jim Walker



**James S. "Jim" Walker** - August 04 at 06:35 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Lawson family. Tom was a friend, great role model and influence to many youth. I was privileged to get to work along side Tom for over 20+ years in the Boy Scout program. Tom’s strong and courageous fight is a lesson for all of us. May many great memories fill the hearts and comfort Tom’s family and friends. God Bless and Rest In Peace my friend.

“Come to me...I will give you rest.” - Matthew 11:28

Keith & Kelly Cross

**Keith Cross** - August 03 at 09:32 AM

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“ I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Tom’s passing. Tom was a business associate, a coworker, and a friend. He was a gentleman, a consummate professional and a dedicated individual. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. My sincerest sympathies and condolences to his family. Rest In Peace Tom, and may your spirit soar and perpetual light shine upon you.

**Jim Noll** - August 03 at 08:56 AM

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“ Tom ~ we worked together for almost 20 years. You were my friend, my mentor, my cheerleader and my brother. I treasure having known you and the time we got to spend together. I pray for your family and all the people whose lives you have touched. Be at peace now and see how very much you are loved.

Juli Weidle

**Juli Weidle** - August 02 at 11:28 AM