



Tom Gregory

June 23, 1941 - May 1, 2026

Services for Carl Thomas Gregory (Tom) will be held May 30, 2026, with a visitation prior to the service at Stewart Funeral Home from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., with the graveside service following at 2:30 p.m. at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Gregory passed away May 1, 2026.

He was born June 23, 1941, at Bryant's Clinic in Tyler to Carl A. and Eula Pearl Gregory. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother-in-law, Jim Watkins.

Tom was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church in Tyler. He graduated in the first graduating class of Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler in 1959. Tom graduated from Texas Tech University in 1964 and was a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Order. He received his Master's degree from Stephen F. Austin University in 1974. Tom was a longtime educator beginning in Gonzales, Texas in the mid-1960's and continuing in Tyler ISD. He taught at Robert E. Lee from 1968-1978, sponsored the Lee Gentlemen, and served as Assistant Principal for Instruction at Lee 1978-79; following that Tom developed the K-12 Gifted & Talented program in the early 1980's. During that period he also served as Interim Principal at Moore Middle School in the spring semester of 1981. Tom was named Director of Secondary Education in 1982 and served in that capacity until retirement when his position had been elevated to

Executive Director of Secondary Instruction. In that capacity, he oversaw nine campuses.

During Mr. Gregory's time in administration for Tyler ISD, he implemented the Academic Decathlon program for the two high schools and later the Academic Pentathlon for the six middle schools. Later the International Baccalaureate program at John Tyler High School was developed and implemented by Mr. Gregory. Tom was elected President of the Texas Middle School Association in 1989-90. He also made clear that he never could have accomplished anything worthwhile without the innumerable talents and patience of Marcia Bostik.

Following retirement from Tyler ISD in 1995, Mr. Gregory taught part time at the University of Texas at Tyler. Realizing how he missed teaching young people, Tom taught and served in administrative roles at All Saints Episcopal School for nine years. His final professional retirement was in May of 2006. Throughout his career as an educator, he focused on people first. Relationships were at the heart of his work, and former students and colleagues attest to the profound impact he had on their lives. His heart was for developing critical thinkers and responsible citizens, and his passion for social justice led him to work to create opportunities for all students.

When Tom returned to Tyler in 1968, he was a member of Pollard UMC, where he was very active. He transferred his membership back to Marvin where he had been baptized. Tom served on the Administrative Council at Marvin and later volunteered in the Welcome Center. His faith was central to his life, and he strove to live out Jesus' first commandment: to love God and your neighbors in all you do.

One of Tom's favorite roles was being Uncle Tom to his nieces Jennifer and Amanda and his nephew James. He was also a devoted big brother to his

sister, Greta, and he had a gift for nurturing friendships that lasted a lifetime.

Tom is survived by his sister, Greta of Tomball, his nieces and nephew Jennifer (Keith) Blackmon of Dripping Springs, James (Amy) Watkins of Tyler, Amanda (Sam) Conger of Cypress, numerous great nieces and nephews, and special friends Susan Allen, Edwina Bullman, Tim Gaut, and Pat Christensen.

If desired, memorials in Tom's name may be made at Marvin UMC and Pets Fur People in Tyler, Texas.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Graveside Service

MAY 30. 2:30 PM (CT)

Rose Hill Cemetery
Tyler, TX

Tribute Wall

GN

“ *Gregory North lit a candle in memory of Tom Gregory*



Gregory North - May 22 at 02:36 PM

TF

“ *The Gregorys in Florida purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Tom Gregory.*



The Gregorys in Florida - May 21 at 09:08 AM

LA

“ *Uncle Tom was the kindest and most supportive soul. He was an important presence in my life from the day I was born. Along with the countless others he positively influenced, I will miss him greatly until I see him again in the next life. I love you Uncle Tom*

Lembo Allen - May 19 at 11:13 AM

JB

“ *Jim Lowe Braswell lit a candle in memory of Tom Gregory*



jim Lowe Braswell - May 14 at 10:10 AM

AP

“ I had Tom Gregory in the 74-75 school year for government and also as part of his Lee Gentlemen group. I didn't learn much about government from him but that was no fault of his as I was a typical 17 year old idiot that as Bob Wyche used to muse "would fight for the right to remain ignorant". I did however, learn an incredibly valuable life lesson from him that I used throughout my entire 50 year career. That being "one can be completely in the right in every way and you can still be run over by a train that is none of your fault". He showed me that when this happens, don't let it ruin your day or life but just continue on. Quite a visionary to only be 33 years old at the time. One of Tyler's great legends forever... J. Alan Payne REL Class of 74-75. Denver, CO

Alan Payne - May 13 at 02:28 PM

J7

“ J. Alan Payne REL Class of 74-75 purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Tom Gregory.



J. Alan Payne REL Class of 74-75 - May 13 at 02:09 PM

JM

“ Jim Miles lit a candle in memory of Tom Gregory



Jim Miles - May 12 at 04:35 PM

MB

“ Greta, sorry to hear about your families loss of your brother! May his memory be a memory of sweet ones!

Marvin Beleck, Ft. Worth

Marvin Beleck - May 12 at 01:15 PM

MT

“ Tom was a trusted colleague and a fine man. I am proud that he was my friend.

Marilyn Thompson - May 12 at 01:07 PM



“ Don Simmons lit a candle in memory of Tom Gregory



Don Simmons - May 12 at 09:58 AM

RB

“ I'm 66 and I still called him Mr. Gregory as recently as a few weeks ago. What a great man. He was my role model when I decided to start teaching High School a few years ago. Hope I'm half the teacher (and role model) he was.

Miss you Mr. Gregory ...

Richard Bearden - May 08 at 09:24 PM

RH

“ *Greta*
So sorry to see that Tom has passed away. I had Tom for class second period my senior year at Lee. He was just so patient and understanding with a maniac jock as myself that barely graduated. After that I would see him around town and have nice visits. Condolences to you and your entire family.

Robert Hahn

Robert Hahn - May 07 at 09:34 PM

TH

Greta, I am so very sorry about your brother. I, too, called him Mr Gregory. He was worthy of the highest respect, and was such a kind man with a big heart and a beautiful smile. I loved seeing him around town. He always took the time to stop and visit and called me by name. I think that is amazing, since I was one of hundreds of kids that he taught in school. His contributions to education will always be appreciated. I am so very sorry. My deepest condolences to your family.

Toni Smith Hibbs

Toni S Hibbs - May 12 at 08:58 AM



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

May 07 at 05:22 PM

BB

“ *Ben K Barron lit a candle in memory of Tom Gregory*



Ben K Barron - May 07 at 08:15 AM

BB

Rest in Eternal Peace Tom. You were a great friend, a great teacher and a great man. You are missed.

Ben K Barron - May 07 at 08:17 AM

DC

“ *Denise Bobo Connolly lit a candle in memory of Tom Gregory*



Denise Bobo Connolly - May 06 at 11:02 PM

KU

“ *Kelley Uzzell lit a candle in memory of Tom Gregory*



kelley Uzzell - May 06 at 08:12 PM

PG

“ *So happy to have worked at REL with Tom. He was a great teacher. A true friend who drove me to ER when my young son broke both of his arms at Rice Elementary School. RIP Tom*

Peggy Gewin - May 05 at 11:42 PM

RS

“ *Tom and I became friends in the Tyler High band, circa 1956 and remained friends for the rest of his life. He was a very kind, gentle, witty, well-read man. It was a privilege to be his friend, and I shall miss him. RIP Tom.*

Raymond Smith - May 05 at 04:37 PM

JC

“ Tom and I were friends and I enjoyed each time I could visit with him and learn from him. He was admired by many.

Jerry L Carpenter - May 05 at 12:41 PM

TR

“ I first met Tom shortly after I became principal at Gary Elementary School in 1979. You know on our life's journey, you occasionally meet someone that you take an instant liking to. Tom Gregory was one of those rare individuals.

Through a myriad of conversations through almost 50 years, we developed a strong friendship. "Thomas" I will sorely miss our regular weekly conversations about families, our dogs, and continually remembering & reminiscing about fun times we had with Tyler I.S.D. His intelligence, his knowledge of history and government subject matter was to be admired.

His sense of humor, his wit, and positive spirit were contagious, and will leave an empty spot in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. He was an educator whose memory his students will always, remember, cherish, and admire!

Tom Rhodes - May 04 at 08:33 PM

HH

Amen, Tom!

Harvey Hill - May 05 at 05:57 PM

MO

I have known Tom most of my life. He was Greta's big brother. He adored her and his love for family was always evident. And he loved his friends like family, His manner of speaking and delivering his message was unique and he could keep you on the edge of your seat! Tom and his wonderful sense of humor will be missed!

Melinda OQuinn - May 11 at 10:26 AM

SF

“ Tom was just the best. I had him for government my senior year, 1975-1976, and kept up with him since. He was always kind and made learning easy. He will truly be missed, a giant among educators and friends.

Scott Finley - May 04 at 07:14 PM

JM

“ Tom was a teacher at Lee but I was not fortunate enough to have him. We did become friends and colleagues when I worked at Tyler ISD. He was the voice of reason often times and a real joy to be around. We remained friends after we retired and we shared our grief when talking about our deceased fur babies. I know his girl Bea was waiting to walk him into Heaven. I just thought he would go on forever here on earth. We will miss you, Tom.

Jo McMahan - May 04 at 05:55 PM

PM

“ Patriciahighfill M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tom Gregory.

Patriciahighfill M. - May 04 at 04:58 PM

PM

“ In the summer of 1968, I took Government. They combined the schools and we all met at JT. Tom was our teacher. He was an excellent teacher, and was knowledgeable as well as compassionate. We learned a lot and adored him as a teacher. Later, when I was singing at Marvin, we ran into each other again — and became friends! We spoke on the phone a couple of weeks ago, and he was his usual charming self!
I am so sorry for Greta and her family. Please know that they are in my thoughts.

Tom, you were quite a Gentleman!

Patty Highfill McKinney - May 04 at 04:53 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Tom Gregory.



May 04 at 03:32 PM



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

May 04 at 03:32 PM

WH

“*Mr. Gregory was one of my favorite teachers and an even better friend to me and my family. By all accounts he was as loved as a person can be. Everyone who has ever said a word about him has mentioned one consistent attribute and that is that Tom was the most supportive person they had ever known. There is a Tom Gregory shaped hole in our collective hearts now and it won't be filled again until the next life.*

What a magnificent human being he was. He will be missed.

Waylen Thomas Hardy - May 04 at 03:20 PM

KE

Tom was an incredible teacher and mentor to me all through high school. Would see him from time to time over the years and we picked up right where we left off from my days at REL. He always had a kind word and nothing but positive encouragement. The world needs more Tom Gregory's. Will miss him

Kevin Eltife

Kevin Eltife - May 05 at 06:19 AM

CS

A true friend for the time we spent as co employees of TISD. A very consistent an knowledgeable personality about his chosen field and extremely enjoyable in the after 5 meetings Tom an I would share at local establishments tearing down an rebuilding whatever we would be discussing. A favorite comment for TOM AN I was that he an I should have been involved in the political arena of life. Gonna miss this feller I am.

Charles Stanford - May 06 at 12:51 PM

KU

Tom was an amazing teacher and even better friend. He will be missed.

kelley Uzzell - May 06 at 08:15 PM

MT

Tom and I were friends from way back. We were in the first graduating class of Robert E. Lee High School. He was a great friend and will be miss. RIP Tom, you were loved by many.
Margaret Walters Adame Trott

Margaret L Trott - May 08 at 11:12 AM

MC

Tom and I started 1st grade together at Gary Elementary in Sept. 1946. We went through school together until we graduated in 1959. We remained friends throughout our lives and had regular hour plus long phone conversations remembering old times, up until a few weeks before he passed. Tom, I will miss you.

Mike Canant

Mike Canant - May 11 at 11:48 PM

RR

Mr. Gregory was such an inspiration to me during my Senior Year. We watched the inauguration of Jimmy Carter like it was the Super Bowl. He made learning Government fun. I was so inspired that I painted him a portrait of Thomas Jefferson with his face. Years later, my brother was remodeling his home and saw that picture on his desk. Honored he kept it. What a great man.

Rhonda Degge Reynolds - May 12 at 12:38 PM