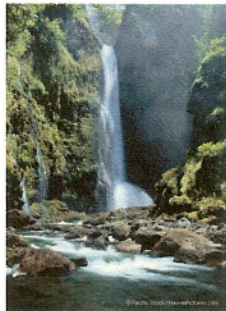


They are not gone, but changed-  
Souls turned to *light*,  
Transformed into stars  
That burn *forever* in the sky-  
Shining down upon us  
Through openings in *heaven*,  
Keeping watch  
Sending *love*  
Love lives *forever*,  
A new star in heaven  
Now *shines* just for you.

(Author Unknown)



Thomas Lester Oberhelman



~A Celebration of Life~  
February 5, 1955-May 16, 2011

## A Celebration of the Life of Thomas Oberhelman

Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 5, 1955. His family moved to Stanford, CA in 1961. In elementary school, Tom made life long friendships with Peter Duignan, Dwight Harbaugh, Grant Lindee, Steve Crowley, Steve Connolly, Bruce Aronow, Vincent Ritson, David Whitcher and many others. The group that Pam refers to as the "Stanford Brats", were quite mischievous and always fun-loving.

He attended Gunn High School, where he was known as, "Tommy O". He earned several awards and recognition for his participation in sports, especially football. Headlines in the newspaper featured his sports achievement with titles such as, "Gunn Hopes to Go with Tommy O". After graduating from high school in 1973, he attended Stanford University. He became a member of Delta Tau Delta and was elected, Social Chair. His athleticism shined, as he was also a member of the football and rugby teams. His rugby opponents nicknamed him "the yank". On the field, players would yell in warning, "Watch out for the yank!"

He studied abroad at Clivedon, England where he, Peter Duignan, Gene Klein, Bill O'Hare, David Pratt, Douglas Whitcher and Doreen King perfected "the pub crawl" to a high level of accomplishment. He graduated from Stanford with his degree in Human Biology in 1978. He followed his father into the medical field, working as a dialysis technician at Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto. In 1984 he began his affiliation with El Camino Dialysis.

Co-workers, patients, physicians and nurses described him as being compassionate, caring, dedicated, reliable and professional. Whenever there was a staff shortage, "Tommy" was the person called to cover and he was always glad to help.

During his time at Veteran's Hospital, he met Pamela Brands. Tom and Pam were married in 1985. Their first son, Taylor, was born in 1987. Wesley, their second son, was born in 1992. Tom's family enjoyed yearly vacations to Hawaii and Lake Tahoe. Tropical Hawaii was a favorite vacation for the family and Tom took beautiful photographs of the incredible Kauai sunsets and exotic flowers that he loved. Winter skiing in Lake Tahoe was very special because the boys would bring as many friends as they could, enough to fill every room. Tom loved these family vacations and felt that his boys' lives were enriched by these wonderful times and the memories they created. Tom was a very enthusiastic supporter of his sons' football and basketball activities and the boys on the field could hear him yelling (proudly!). He lived for his boys. He was happy both his boys were attending college in Santa Barbara and majoring in nursing. Tom and Pam were redefining their lives with both children in college. Reconnecting after raising children, this was a very good time for both Tom and Pam. Tom was very loved by the people in his life. He will be greatly missed by many.

Lima & Compagna Sunnyvale Mortuary  
1315 Hollenbeck Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA

May 22, 2011

Reverend Alan Arnone

Greeting

Prayer

"The Lord is my Sheppard", 23 Psalms

Reflection-Rev. Arnone

DVD tribute

Words from the Family:

Pamela Brands

Dr. Harry A Oberhelman

Harry Oberhelman III

Dinnie McLaughlin

Remembering Tom:

Peter Duignan

Dr. Bruce Aronow

David Pratt

Rube Price

Open invitation for others to speak!

Please join the family at the Stanford Faculty Club after  
the service