



Tomm D. Eaton

June 8, 1942 - January 15, 2012

TOMM DOUGLAS EATON

Tomm Eaton died at 1:20 a.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2012, at Columbia Memorial Hospital surrounded by his heartbroken family. Tomm was born June 8, 1942 to Bettina (Garland) and Douglas Eaton in Evansville, Indiana, and earned his bachelor's degree in art and graphic design at Kent State University in 1964. He began working as a store manager at Higbee's in Cleveland, Ohio, but later moved to New York City to work for the cosmetics giant Estee Lauder Inc. as regional manager of a 13-state territory and was eventually promoted to administrative director, for which he crisscrossed the United States developing new business.

Tomm married and had three children: Kate, Ben, and Amanda, to whom he was devoted. He loved the outdoors, and introduced his children to what he called "haute adventure," which included hot-air ballooning, cross-country skiing, and fishing. A weekend home in the area eventually brought him to Hudson permanently, where he worked for many years in real estate and opened his own business, where he would "turn needs into deeds" for house hunters. He also worked most recently at Hudson Home and TJ Maxx.

The civic and cultural life of both Hudson and Columbia County were enriched by Tomm's many efforts. He served on the board of trustees of the Hudson

Opera House from its inception through the 1990s; as president of the Hudson Area Association Library Friends group; as president of the Columbia County Real Estate Board; at various times as president, secretary, and treasurer of the Columbia County Council on the Arts; and secretary of Trout Unlimited. He also served on the Government Advisory Committee for Hudson Mayor Richard Scalera; on Hudson's Mayoral Advisory Board; and he was active in the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

A man of generous spirit and a ready smile, Tomm loved food, family, friends, and fun. He loved to cook and fish, tie flies, tell stories, and laugh; but he never went anywhere without sketchbook and pencils or watercolors in hand. He was often known to give people who bought a house from him a watercolor of their new home. He loved travel and immensely enjoyed trips to London, Italy, Germany, and Switzerland, as well as his many excursions with Janet up and down the East Coast, when he was always on the hunt for ideal spots to fish and sketch.

Tomm is survived by the people who loved him most: his life partner, Janet Schnitzer; his children, Kate, Ben, and Amanda and their spouses, Frank Orlando, Mary Ellen Eaton, and Nicholas LaMantia; his grandchildren, Nikolas and Ryan Orlando, Lucy and Emma Eaton, and Grace LaMantia; and Jonathan and Camila Schnitzer and Suzann (Schnitzer) and Grant Benatar and grandchildren Benjamin Schnitzer and Ethan Benatar. He is also survived by brother and sisters Diane and Gary Eaton of Georgia, Jane and Eddie Sheffner of Ohio, Joyce and John Kessler of Georgia, Lori and Joe Brozka of Ohio, and their children Adrian and Sarah Eaton Martin, Steven and Marella Eaton, Jessica Brozka and cousin Cynthia and George Atkinson.

There will be a memorial celebration of Tomm's life in the spring, soon after trout season begins again. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Tomm's memory may be made to: The Columbia County Council on the Arts, 209 Warren

Street, Hudson; The Hudson Area Association Library, 400 State Street, Hudson; Columbia Greene Trout Unlimited (CGTU), P.O. Box 733, Hudson; or Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren Street, Hudson.

Tribute Wall

SG

“ *Susan Goodsill lit a candle in memory of Tomm D. Eaton*



Susan Goodsill - January 26, 2012 at 09:20 AM

LS

“ *Lea DeLuke Schwartz lit a candle in memory of Tomm D. Eaton*



Lea DeLuke Schwartz - January 22, 2012 at 06:52 PM