



## Tom Fred Murphy

July 6, 1943 - August 12, 2023

Thomas (Tom) Fred Murphy, age 80 of Moline, KS, passed away Saturday, August 12, 2023 at his home.

Tom was born July 6, 1943 in Lawrence, KS to Tom S. and Elfreda E. (Papenhause) Raybourn.

When Tom was 3 years old, his parents divorced, and he moved with his mother to Ajo, AZ, where his mother would meet Thomas Patrick Murphy. Thomas became stepdad, but raised Tom as if he were his own. Tom became a big brother in January 1951 when his brother Patrick was born.

Tom graduated from Ajo High School in June 1961, later that summer he enlisted in the US Navy. He was proud to serve his country from 1961 to 1965. He had hoped to “Join the Navy and See the World” but never once got on a ship. He was stationed at the Point Mugo Navy Missile Base for his entire enlistment. After the Navy, Tom moved to Tucson and obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry at the University of Arizona. He wanted to continue to Veterinary School, but it just wasn’t in the cards. He remained active in the USN Reserves till 1975, where he was trained as a Helicopter Rescue Specialist/Frogman.

In 1973 while living in Pima, AZ, Tom went to work for UPS, and drove Feeder truck for them until he retired in 2002. While on his route, he struck up a

friendship with Joan Helms, and after a few years of friendship, they were married on June 30, 1979. During their marriage, they lived in Meza, AZ and Flagstaff, AZ. Once they both retired, they traveled for 4 years, driving to places as far north as Manitoba, Canada and as far south as Acapulco, Mexico. They decided to find a home close to family and in 2007, moved to Moline, KS. They continued traveling and loved to go on cruises.

Tom was never someone to enjoy much down time, so after moving to Moline, he drove a school bus for West Elk Schools. He thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the kids and talking with them. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed being outdoors. Whether he was hiking, or just taking long walks, he loved enjoying nature. He also enjoyed listening to books on tape or watching a good western. He loved to joke and laugh, and was an animal lover, especially cats.

Tom is survived by his wife Joan, of the home.

Two adopted daughters:

Amy Shaw and husband Chris of Coffeyville, KS

Rhonda "Skeeter" Cloyd and husband Tim of Seneca, MO

Four grandchildren:

Cindy Cloyd of Seneca MO

Travis Cloyd of Tempe AZ

Quentin Bryant and wife Shyanne of Norfolk, VA

Lauryn Tallman and husband Caleb of Christiansburg VA

2 great-granddaughters: Annalee and Sunni

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepdad, and brother.

A memorial service to honor Tom will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday,

September 16, 2023 at the Moline Christian Church, Moline, KS

Memorial contributions can be made to Harry Hynes Hospice and can be mailed to or left with the funeral home.

Services entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home, 206 E. Washington, PO Box 1233, Howard, KS 67349

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP **16.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Moline Christian Church  
404 N. Main  
P.O. Box 296  
Moline, KS 67353

# Tribute Wall



“ *My favorite bus driver❤️ Always made my day better!*  
*Jaymee Cunningham*

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**Jaymee Cunningham** - September 26, 2023 at 01:56 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Tom Fred Murphy.*



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September 14, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tom Fred Murphy.*



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August 24, 2023 at 06:26 PM



“ *Tom was the most fun to play card games with and also, the Mexican Train dominoes game. We always had lots of good laughs. He is missed, a great guy! ❤️*

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**Bonnie and Burl Helms** - August 17, 2023 at 03:31 PM

VC

“ oh Joan and family, all my heart goes out to you. God bless and be with you all. *Velma Conklin*

**Velma Conklin** - August 16, 2023 at 11:06 AM

JM

*Thank you Velma, so very much!*

**Joan Murphy** - August 17, 2023 at 02:40 PM

BN

“ *Tom will be missed by many.*  
*Bob and Judy Nungesser*



**Bob & Judy Nungesser** - August 15, 2023 at 03:16 PM

JM

*He touched many lives!! The school bus was his favorite job and wished he had a chance to do it more.*

**Joan Murphy** - August 17, 2023 at 02:39 PM



*Tom is missed by the West Elk students and drivers and everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him.*

**Roanna Elliott** - August 19, 2023 at 08:58 AM

MP

*Sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was a classmate of mine in Ajo for many years.*

**Mary Dickey Estes, Litchfield Park** - September 13, 2023 at 11:40 PM