



Thomas Earl Sullenberger PH.D.

May 16, 1938 - September 21, 2023

Thomas was born in 1938 in College Station, Texas. He graduated from high school in 1956 in Stephenville, TX and entered the United States Navy where he trained as an electronics technician. Thomas then attended Tarleton State University with a degree in English, History, and Foreign Languages. The following year he taught English in Dalhart, TX before returning to North Texas State to complete a Masters in English Literature. After graduating in 1966, Thomas taught English at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX, Stephen H. Austin University in Nacodoches, TX, and Southeastern Missouri University in Springfield, MO. In 1974, he entered Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX where he completed a PH.D. in Criminal Justice, after which he taught Criminal Justice at Marshal University in West Virginia and the University of Texas in Arlington, TX. In 1988, Thomas joined the faculty at Southeastern Louisiana State University where he taught for 20 years before retiring in 2008. He stated that of all the universities at which he has taught, SLU was by far the best as measured by the quality of the education provided. It was perhaps the best kept secret in the south.

Thomas is survived by his wife of 30 years Cheri Sullenberger; daughters, Madeline Mahajan (Suchin), Cherish vanMullem, Heather Damitio Howell; son, Robbie vanMullem (Beth); brother, Hal Sullenberger; nephew, Joe Sullenberger (Sandy); niece, Brooks Switzer (Rusty); and grandchildren, Jonathan Damitio, Lauren vanMullem, Julian vanMullem, and Chamberlain Howell.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Hal and Madeline Sullenberger. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be sent to the Dr. Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice. Check/money orders should be made out to and mailed to the Southeastern Foundation at SLU 10293, Hammond, LA 70402. Credit card donations may be made online at southeastern.edu/memorial. Or you may call (985) 549-2239. A cremation was held, and services will be held privately by the family.

Tribute Wall

NW

“ So very sorry for your loss , Cheri. You are in my thoughts.



Nancy E Willman - October 23, 2023 at 12:38 AM

LF

“ Dear Cheri was saddened to hear about Tom. Know that you and your family are in our hearts and prayers. Miss seeing you! May God's Holy Spirit give you peace and comfort.

Lois Freeman - September 24, 2023 at 11:38 PM

CH

“ I am very sorry for your loss, Cheri.
I had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Sullenberger for a story once, and found him fascinating.
My thoughts and prayers are with you. It's an awful thing to lose your spouse.
Chip's been gone four years now, and my pain is still immense.

Cindy Heitman-Fletcher - September 24, 2023 at 10:19 PM

RR

“ So sorry for your loss Cheri and family.

Raquel Riddle - September 22, 2023 at 09:03 PM