

Tom Olson, 1969, March 4, 1947 to July 9, 2023.

Tom graduated from Alma in 1969 after transferring here his last two years from Northern Michigan University. He was very active with the Alma choir, Tyler Board and a co-founder of the Theta Chi fraternity. He made fast friends including Martha Hayden, Sally LaBeur, Cathy Peck, Dave Freestone, Rich Lorenz, Sue Rappley, Fred Borchard, Art Bova, Kent Rogers as 2-year roommate and a slew of fraternity brothers: Jim Snyder, Bob Eldridge, Bill Lauppe, Bill Klintworth, Leo Sensabaugh, Alan Brown, Harry McGee and more. He loved his mentor Dr. JJ Smith. Tom went on to teach in St. Ignace many years and then to Houston area to finish his 50+ years in the classroom having received many accolades. Tom leaves behind his brothers, Mike, 1969, and Jerry, 1963. Tom and his wife Joyce directed Presbytery Point summer camp operations at Lake Michigamme in the UP for over two decades and their three daughters followed in their footsteps. Tom's ashes were scattered there. Tom had been nominated several times for an Alma Alumni Award for his work at the Point and in the Mackinaw Presbytery. I, Mike, still have a well-known published picture of Tom racing out of Old Main carrying official Alma records during the 1969 fire. A UP lover, he actually went there to his home this summer knowing he would pass away. He loved singing the bass part of "Loyal Hearts Will Cherish Ever..." One night, me being an RA on First West Wright, while in the bathroom, came back to my single off of the front porch, and there was Tom, 3 fraternity brothers and 3 young ladies with smiles on their faces and liquid refreshments in their hands. Yikes! I said, "Out, now, women on the floor!" Tom also liked to serenade the females at Bruske Hall, especially when all should have been studying at exam times. Tom and friends had their own engraved seats at a downtown place called the P.K. Any wishing to pass on sympathies to his wife, Joyce, may do so at 19002 Yaupon Trail, Humble, TX 77346. Tom's full colorful obituary can be accessed at ["ernashfuneralhomes.com---OBITS, Thomas Lee Olson."](http://ernashfuneralhomes.com---OBITS, Thomas Lee Olson)