



Thomas Eugene Van Velson

December 5, 1942 - February 28, 2014

THOMAS EUGENE VAN VELSON

December 5, 1942 - February 28, 2014. Raised on a farm in the western Nebraska farm community of Brule, Tom learned the value of hard work and family, lessons he carried with him for life. Tom graduated from high school in 1960, and he also graduated from the University of Nebraska, where he studied psychology. When drafted into the Army he was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and used the computer and data processing skills he acquired in the registrar's office at the University of Nebraska. In the early 70's Tom began a 35 year career with Colorado State University in the Department of Information Systems. Tom lived in Rist Canyon, near Fort Collins over 40 years, where he tirelessly managed his forested property and raised llamas. His mountain property became one of the first enrolled in the Colorado Tree Farmer Association which recognized Tom's dedication to healthy forest ecosystems. He was always involved in the Rist Canyon/Fort Collins communities, with his family and friends, and with his work at the university. He was a charter member of the Rist Canyon Fire Department, sang in the Larimer Chorale for over 30 years, and loved to travel. He spent a year working and teaching in Australia as well as time he spend living and teaching in Cairo, Egypt, with further travels in Africa, South America, and Europe. He combined his interests of traveling, hiking and running. Tom's hiking accomplishments include Mt Kosciusko Australia, Mt. Kilimanjaro Tanzania and over thirty-five '14ers in Colorado. On one trip, Tom skied the French Alps

and over the years he ran dozens of half marathons and 10k's. When traveling by sea, he preferred the simplicity of freighter ship excursions, to more popular travel options. Tom was loved by many colleagues, his mountain community and his family. He will be greatly missed by his surviving families including brothers, Rod in Windsor, Colorado and Rich and John Van Velson in Brule, Nebraska plus sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews. No service is planned.

Tribute Wall

PS

“ I knew Tom through his work with the CSU Library designing our first automated accounting interface between the Library and the University. His innovative design achieved national attention as it was borrowed by other libraries. Our staff and I enjoyed working with him very much. He was always cheerful, kind, responsive, and dedicated. My husband Charles grew up in Ogallala and remembers him from the Brule Walther League and always enjoyed the occasional times he saw him on campus and chatted about llamas and lions and things. Our condolences to Tom's family. He will be missed.

Patricia Smith - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ We were so very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I have wonderful memories chatting with him over many years at Moby gym after noon time runs. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved his llamas. He went too soon and he will be missed. Lyn and Tom

Lyn Stevens and Tom Remington - March 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I had the pleasure of working with Tom on some of his land conservation efforts. He was a joy to work with and his land stewardship ethic was second to none. I always enjoyed my visits with him as he always had a positive outlook and a can do attitude. I will miss him greatly but am better for having known him.

John Fusaro - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Tom, Thank you for being Patricia's neighbour and friend up the canyon, so that through her I met you and shared 30 years of good friendship. Thank you for asking me to go to Kenya with you. For helping when Tigger Webb died. For much assistance in my back garden -- tree pruning, wood chopping. For sharing meals, wine and great conversation. Thank you most of all for your care and respect for others in the animal kingdom. We will miss you. Christine and Daphne Sykes

Christine M Sykes - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Both Bob and I worked with Tom for many years at CSU, both as "customers" and later as colleagues in I.S. In the early days at CSU Tom inspired me to form my career into something I was suited for. He was a brilliant man, with many interests far beyond his work. He was one of the best and most intelligent people we ever worked with. Bob remembers that in his short time in I.S. working with Tom that Tom knew the complex accounting systems inside and out. We have no idea how they ever replaced him when he retired. I'm glad I saw him about 4 years ago when I was about to retire. R.I.P. Tom.

Mavis and Bob O'Connor - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I worked with Tom in I.S. at CSU. He was very intelligent and kind. I enjoyed working with him.

Dawn McIntosh - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ Tom was an important part of our family over the years. We spent many hours in Rist canyon getting firewood, listening to Tom and the things he was doing. We will miss his humor and kindness.

Allan and Janet Eddy - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM