



## Thomas H. Alford

December 16, 1949 - August 4, 2020

Thomas Hockman Alford, beloved son of Jerry and Edwin Alford, brother of Duncan (1951-93), father of Louisa and Tad, grandfather of Ana, took flight to the Heavens August 4, 2020.

Born December 16, 1949 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Tom attended Franklin, West Junior High, and Muskogee Central High. He played trombone in the marching band and guitar in The Bitter End. Tom graduated from the University of Oklahoma and went on to OU Law (1976). His brothers in Phi Gamma Delta meant much to him.

Tom returned to Muskogee in 1976 to practice law with his bride, Martha Raber. Louisa Raber Alford (1982) and Thomas (Tad) Raber Alford (1986) were born and raised on Kendall Boulevard in the former home of his Mom's best friend. Tom was a loving, hands-on Dad who was always supportive, instilled an appreciation for the outdoors, and taught by example that everyone is entitled to dignity and respect.

Tom's legal career began as an associate with Wilcoxon, Cate and Scherer. In 1978 he became an Assistant District Attorney and ultimately Chief Prosecutor in the Muskogee County District Attorney's office, serving under Drew Edmondson and Mike Turpen. He then spent five years in the Edmondson Law Office.

Tom was selected as Special Judge in 1985, beginning his calling as a judge. Five months later, he was appointed Associate District Judge by Gov. George Nigh to fill an unexpired term. Again in 2004, Tom was appointed District

Judge for Oklahoma's 15th Judicial District. Tom "retired" in 2018 after 34 years on the bench. Over the vast majority of his career and up until retirement, Tom retained the juvenile docket – a major passion of his - and served on the Oklahoma Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee. In 2000 he was awarded Oklahoma Press Association's Right to Know Champion Award after being nominated by the Tulsa World for keeping the public informed. Tom also served many years on the Board of Directors for Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. Tom saw the practice of law as an extremely noble profession and an opportunity to help those in need.

At 13, Tom lost his father to cancer and was raised along with Duncan by their mother, who worked retail many nights and weekends to make ends meet. His life prepared him to relate to others and be humble, and he took his duty to public service to heart.

Tom was most content in complete wilderness with a pair of binoculars. He also enjoyed his time painting, playing music, and on the Baron Fork at Wauhilla Outing Club and Blackacre in Adair County. He was a founding member of the Indian Nations Audubon Society. He also shared time with Muskogee Habitat, Muskogee Parks and Recreation, and Grace Episcopal Church.

Left to cherish him and many wonderful memories are Louisa; Tad and wife Brie and daughter, Ana; Martha; extended Duncan and Raber family members; coworkers at the Muskogee County Courthouse and countless friends. Tom no doubt takes comfort in knowing what a long strange trip it has been, but not nearly long enough for those who knew him.

A memorial service celebrating Tom's life will be 2PM, Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at Grace Episcopal Church with Father Bob Wickizer officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Grace Episcopal Church ([info@gracemuskogee.org](mailto:info@gracemuskogee.org)) and CASA for Children, Inc. ([www.casaok.org](http://www.casaok.org))

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN **30**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Episcopal Church  
218 N. 6th Street  
Muskogee, OK 74401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas H. Alford*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *I had the privilege of working for Judge Alford in the mid-80's. My favorite part of the job was seeing his scratch pads-his everyday doodles were works of art! He was also an avid Cardinal baseball fan. He felt my only failure was not wanting or intending to learn more about snakes! You are missed, Tom. Betsy Kennedy*

**etsy Kennedy** - June 30, 2021 at 07:29 PM



“ *I miss you, I remember the times I was in your court room. I always thought of you  
Santa Clause with power. Rest In Peace*

**Patricia Marnach** - June 30, 2021 at 06:50 PM



“ *Greatly admired by the Almedia Carter, Buffington and Pease families. Sincere condolences to family and friends. Prayers for triple dosages of deliverance of God's peace, comfort, grace, mercies and hedges of protection. Amen!*

**Ruth Buffington** - June 30, 2021 at 06:08 PM

DJ

“ *Dana Jo lit a candle in memory of Thomas H. Alford*



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**Dana Jo** - June 30, 2021 at 01:21 AM

SD

“ *He was the "Best". Not only as a Judge but also an amazing friend. May He Rest In Peace.*



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**Stacy Dunn** - June 29, 2021 at 10:38 PM

AB

“ *I will always remember Tom's compassion and sense of justice in balance. It was an honor to know him and to know his work in the community.--- Rev. Ann Brizendine (First Presbyterian Church)*

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**Ann Brizendine** - June 29, 2021 at 08:57 PM