



Thomas Raymond Dufek, 78 of Cordova, TN, retired Air Force Technical Sergeant and U.S. Naval Department civilian employee passed away 09 August 2008 after bouts with double pneumonia and cancer. Tom was a native of Detroit, Michigan but traveled the globe during his Air Force career of twenty plus years, settling in Charleston, SC, upon retirement from the U.S. Air Force he met and married Peggy Arnold, the love of his life in South Carolina. In the U.S. Air Force Tom received the second highest score on the radar school test ever recorded in the history of the Air Force. He utilized this knowledge and his skills at the Charleston Naval Shipyard and later at the Polaris

Missile Facility, Atlantic in Goose Creek, SC, and the largest repository of nuclear weapons in the world (for the cold war). He graduated from Trident Technical in North Charleston, SC, using the G.I. bill. He had double majors in Electronic Engineering Technology and Electrical Engineering Technology. At POMFLANT, he became technical assistant for the Trident I C-4 missile. During his tenure of 19 years at POMFLANT, his team received two, Department of Defense Civilian Unit Citations and was the only civilian organization to receive the Presidential Meritorious Unit Citation. Tom worked on a committee for the Combined Federal Campaign of the United Way at POMFLANT, which investigated those agencies of the United Way to be sure each one, met the requirements. He was also, successful in securing funds for the agency. Tom was active in the Republican Party in South Carolina and received, along with his wife, recognition from the South Carolina Senate for longevity in working for good government. Ordained an elder in Yeamans Park Presbyterian Church in Hanahan, SC, he continued to be an elder, once ordained always an elder. He was a counselor for the community youth in the after-school program. He was a star participant in the Maxy Le Gre Church school class, stimulating discussion, he said. He held membership in the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), Alumni Association of POMFLANT (Polaris Missile Facility Atlantic), NARFE (National Association of Federal Retired Employees), AFGE (American Federation of Government Employees Union), Highland Heights Presbyterian Church and the two Republican Clubs of Shelby County, Associate member of Shelby County Republican Women and member of the Northeast Republican Club (Bartlett). Tom loved life and loved people. He tried to see humor in life and had as one of his goals to make the world a happier place. He utilized his vast collection of jokes and one-liners to accomplish his goal. However, Tom was self educated and had read many classics and some theology. He was often known to quote relevant Shakespeare lines and the Bible. Tom is survived by his wife of thirty eight years, Peggy; his daughter, Mary Ellen Koks and husband, Paul of Woodlands, TX; to sisters, Alice Dufek of Hamtramck, MI and Rosemary Kum of Vista, CA. The family will receive friends from 9:30 am, Saturday, August 16 until service time at 11:00 am at Highland Heights Presbyterian Church of Cordova. A reception will follow in the church fellowship hall. All are invited. In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to Highland Heights Presbyterian Church, 2855 Morning Sun Road, Cordova, TN 38016.