



## Thomas J. Vaughan

September 30, 1928 - November 4, 2020

Rye - Thomas J. "Tom" Vaughan, of Rye, passed away peacefully at the age of 92, on November 4, 2020 after a long, full and happy life.

Tom was born on September 30th, 1928 to Michael and Marie Vaughan in Somerville, MA. In 1946 he graduated from St John's Cambridge. He was a WWII veteran, serving in the Army in post-war Japan.

Tom was a graduate of the American Television Institute in electrical engineering and became a renowned expert in microwave systems and television transmission. He built his company, Micro Communications, Inc. in Manchester, NH. In 1994 he earned the prestigious Engineering Achievement Award from the National Association of Broadcasters. Tom also served on the Federal Communications Commission Advisory Board for high-definition television.

In 1952, he and Elaine Jean Saltzman of Somerville, were wed. They raised three children: Deborah Vaughan-Gowen of Philadelphia, PA; Karen Vaughan of Manchester, NH; and Cheryl Vaughan Forster of Salt Lake City, UT.

In 1979, he married Barbara Curtis of Haverhill, MA and Tom welcomed her daughter, Sharon (Curtis) Spaulding (David Smith) of Fresno, CA, into the family.

After selling his business, he and Barbara traveled the world and split their time between Rye, NH and Naples, FL, golfing and hosting special family visits.

Tom was pre-deceased by his parents, and his wife of 37 years Barbara (Curtis) of Rye, NH. Also deceased are Elaine, his first wife, his sister Mary Donovan of Waltham, MA; brothers John Vaughan of Newmarket, NH; George Vaughan of Louisville, KY; and sister Teresa Passinissi of Danvers, MA.

Tom loved all of his blended family. He is survived by daughters Deborah, Karen, and Cheryl, and Sharon. He is also survived by three younger brothers; Francis (Terresa) Vaughan of Arlington MA; Joseph (Marlene) Vaughan of Twin Mountain, NH and Lawrence (Marilyn) Vaughan of Sun City Center, FL as well as his grandchildren Emily Gowen (Peter Erikson) of Philadelphia; Glen Forster of NYC; Weston Forster of Salt Lake City, Garth (Christina) Spaulding of San Francisco and Bree (Jonas) Wilber of Fresno as well as his five great grandchildren (Griffin, Londen, Brighton, Rowyn, and Lyra Bella) and many nieces and nephews and their loving families.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital (<http://www.stjude.org/>) , The American Heart Association (<https://www.heart.org/>) or Habitat for Humanity (<https://www.habitat.org/>) would be appreciated.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas J. Vaughan*

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September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM

JS

“ My condolences to all of Tom's family. I worked for Tom for many years and owe much of my success to his mentorship and training. I began work with him in 1987 when I was a kid fresh out of engineering school who said I wanted to learn more about high power RF. Boy did he deliver! Tom was always way ahead of the industry with his thoughts and designs. "That won't work", was never in his vocabulary. I had the opportunity from day one to work on ground breaking projects. Some projects that will last in my memory are: Sears Tower TV combiner, Arecibo dish antenna, Kuwait TV systems, DTV test filters, dual line feed for DTV, RFR measurements at World Trade Center/Empire State Building/Hancock Center/Boston/etc, researching and writing a book on the new Digital Television standard implementation, and the list goes on and on!

*I remember and cherish our discussions (often on Friday afternoon before Tom left for the beach) in his cigar smoke filled office. One thing I recollect is that Tom would often review his to-do list for me at these Friday meetings and say to me; "how long do you think that will take to finish?" and me saying "three days". His response would then be "OK good because we need it for Monday" to which I would say, "so do you want me and all the crew to work over the weekend in order to finish it?"; "oh no, I wouldn't want you to work on your free time" he would say. The point being, he was always a step ahead and time was a relative thing for him. I also remember many trips to his home office in Rye to work in peace and quiet with Barbara supplying the coffee and friendship.*

*I know that he and Barbara were not happy when I left the company and I regret that we didn't have a better parting and that I never really cleaned up our relationship and took the time to see him after his retirement. The year he won the NAB Achievement Award, I was not working for him and that is sad especially since this year I was given the same award due in no small way to his having faith in a young engineer.*

*Unfortunately I couldn't find any photos of Tom and I but attached are some from NAB and one from the Union Leader on our Kuwait project.*

*R.I.P. Tom!*

*Jim Stenberg  
Portland Maine*



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**Jim Stenberg** - November 23, 2020 at 10:08 AM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Cindy Vaughan** - November 18, 2020 at 09:37 AM

CV

“ Uncle Tom was always funny and had a twinkle in his eye. I think he liked humor and mischief. He would tell stories to my fellow cousins and sometimes I could not tell if they were real or he was making it up! I know he liked to alter newspaper headlines and create funny stories especially if it involved his family. This was before photoshop so he was quite skilled at doing this.

*He let me visit several times in Naples when I was laid off from a position. He always treated me with respect and we discussed business ideas. He was close to my parents and we always enjoyed our visits. He was generous to others.*

*He came to Louisville to visit when I worked at a local TV station and our chief engineer was honored to meet him. Our engineer had heard of him before due to him getting the “Engineer of the Year” award. In fact I have the picture of my father, Uncle Tom and me on my desk.*

*I know his daughter Karen took good care of him in his later years.*

*All of Vaughan men were honorable, had big generous Irish hearts and loved their family very much.*

*We will miss you Uncle Tom.*

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Cindy Vaughan - November 12, 2020 at 07:15 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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Cindy Vaughan - November 12, 2020 at 06:48 PM

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Cindy Vaughan - November 12, 2020 at 06:47 PM

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Cindy Vaughan - November 12, 2020 at 06:46 PM

KE

“ I knew Tom from his days at Webster at Rye. He always had a smile on his face and was very proud of his work in transmission/antennas. Tom told the story of being at the Empire State Building and King Kong being on the building. Must have told this story a dozen times! I always smile now thinking of King Kong from Tom's story. My condolences to his family. Kevin Kobylnski

kevin - November 12, 2020 at 01:58 PM