



Thomas Herman Kerns

August 14, 1933 - July 19, 2025

Thomas Herman Kerns, age 91, of San Antonio, Texas, passed away peacefully on July 19th, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on August 14, 1933, in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, Tom was the son of the late Patrick and Minnie (Schierhoff) Kerns of Darkwater, PA. A proud patriot, Tom enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1951, serving three years before joining the U.S. Air Force in 1955. Over the course of a distinguished 27-year military career, he rose to the rank of Master Sergeant and served as an Audio Visual Superintendent and Photographer. While stationed in Belgium, Tom met the love of his life, Kathe Wenzel. They married in 1959 and went on to raise three daughters: Linda, Debi, and Karen.

A lifelong advocate for education, Tom earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Public Administration following his military retirement. He briefly owned a publishing company and later spent a decade working in science editing—continuing to blend his talents in communication and education.

Tom was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 63 years, Kathe; his parents; and siblings Patrick Jr., Donald, James, Jack, and Rosemary. He is survived by his brother Robert (Brother Brian); his daughters Linda, Debi (and husband Charlie), and Karen; granddaughters Andrea (and husband

Alejandro), Kinley (and husband Joe); and great-grandson Finn.

A viewing will be held on Monday, August 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., followed by a brief service at 2:30 p.m. at the pavilion at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Tom will be remembered for his quiet strength, dedication to service, intellectual curiosity, and love for his family. He leaves behind a legacy of integrity, perseverance, and kindness.

Cemetery Details

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Road
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Graveside Service

AUG 4. 2:30 PM (CT)

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 820-3891

Tribute Wall

LG

“ Love, Colleen Kerns & David Garber purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Thomas Herman Kerns.



Love, Colleen Kerns & David Garber - August 01, 2025 at 05:28 PM

CK

“ Uncle Tom will be dearly missed by all of us. He was a younger brother to my father (who passed this January) and I loved his stories, his quiet & deeply curious manner, his artistic eye and appreciation of art, science and spirituality. He was a deep thinker and a true family man. I always looked forward each year to his annual Christmas cards where he shared anecdotes of his girls, and would describe in detail all the homey decorations and festivities of the holiday season. My sincerest condolences go out to my dear cousins Linda, Debi and Karen and their families. God Bless Uncle Tom †🕊️💖

Colleen Kerns - August 01, 2025 at 05:15 PM

LP

“ Tom was always the quiet and steady one in groups, whether it was social or otherwise, but he always provided sage advice when necessary. He and Kathe were swell people who opened their door to a group of retired Brooks AFB friends for monthly gatherings, the perfect host and hostess. God Bless you Tom as you and Kathe will now be together in Heaven's reward for eternity.

Lorraine

Lorraine Polonis - August 01, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Herman Kerns.*



July 31, 2025 at 04:52 PM