



Thomas Kwader

November 2, 1952 - November 5, 2025

Tom Kwader was a good man. He was a pioneering hydrogeologist, and beloved member of the Tallahassee community who sadly passed away on November 5, 2025, at the age of 73. His life was a testament to curiosity, compassion, faith, and quiet generosity. He was born in Scranton, PA and moved to Orlando at a young age where he graduated from Oak Ridge High School. Tom was a member of the Boy Scouts in Orlando, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. In later years, he collaborated with his son Matt who also earned the honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. He earned an Associate's Degree at Seminole Junior College. Tom moved to Tallahassee to continue his education at Florida State University obtaining a Bachelor's degree, Master's Degree, and a PhD in Geology. Tom worked multiple jobs through college, graduating with no college debt.

In Tallahassee, Tom met the love of his life, Doris Mueller, with whom he shared 24 years of love and adventure, travelling in their Grady White Boats across the Southeastern US and the Bahamas with his US Coast Guard Captain's License, deep sea fishing, travelling in their RV for month-long Smoky Mountain trips, and most importantly, enjoying their life together on Lake Jackson with the best dogs ever, first Reba and then Maddie. He was an avid Seminole Fan. Tom was an active member and supporter of Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Dr. Kwader was regarded as an international expert on groundwater recovery and treatment systems and injection well technology. Dr. Kwader worked for the Northwest Florida Water Management District, becoming a national resource for geophysical logging and geotechnical core analyses. Dr. Kwader went on to establish the Florida Operation of Woodward-Clyde Consultants and the “founding father” which became URS Corporation and then AECOM, where he was a Vice President and Principal Hydrogeologist. Dr. Kwader presented more than sixty papers at the National level. Dr. Kwader was appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles in 1996 to serve on the Board of Professional Geologist where he continued to serve until 2003. Dr. Kwader wrote for numerous technical journals and publications as a subject matter expert. Dr. Kwader’s work has been referenced in other states’ environmental regulations. Dr. Kwader mentored many young geologists. Dr. Kwader mentored future geologists as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at FSU. With all these crowning achievements, he was frustrated to the end in his inability as a private citizen to convince State and Local Governments to implement his berm around the Lake Jackson Sink Hole to protect the Floridan Aquifer from the chemicals pouring into the Floridan Aquifer and eventually Wakulla Springs.

Tom held a US Patent for a “Well Development Tool and Method for Use Thereof” and started Qwater Well Development Company. His invention is used internationally and the methodology is required by some states.

As an entrepreneur, Tom owned and managed numerous rental properties across Tallahassee. But he was more than a landlord—he was a mentor and advocate, helping many of those tenants’ transition into homeownership and build better futures for their families.

Tom is survived by his loving wife Doris Mueller, mother Elmae Whelan, son Matt Kwader (Lisa Wozney-Kwader), brother Kevin (Karen), sister Ellie (Jim),

sister Maryann (Dominic), Laurrie (Ed), granddaughter Tatum Williams, and bonus family Danny (Lexy) and Papa to Nova and Valor, along with the entire Mueller Clan who loved him very much. Tom was preceded in death by his father Stanley Kwader and sister Debbie.

Much gratitude to Tom's doctors and nurses and techs, and the Angels on earth masquerading as staff at Big Bend Hospice, for the loving and dignified care given to Tom. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 2 pm in the Terrace at Wakulla Springs Lodge, located at 550 Wakulla Park Drive, Wakulla Springs, Florida.

Tom Kwader's life was one of purpose, generosity, and quiet strength. To the end, he was disturbed by the current disrespect for science (science is real), human rights and the systematic failure to walk in the footsteps of Jesus' teachings. Please honor him by treating each other and the environment with respect, dignity, truthfulness, and generosity.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice or Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com or 850-385-2193)

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park
465 Wakulla Park Dr
Wakulla Springs, FL 32327
(850) 926-3333

The service will be held in "The Terrace" at the Wakulla Springs Lodge

Tribute Wall

GJ

“ *Real shock to hear. My utmost sympathy to his family. A lot of memories of Tom. I still have one of his purge tools. Please God bless the family with great thoughts of Tom.*

Griffin G Crosby Jr - March 24 at 10:20 AM

SS

“ *My wife and I met Tom and Doris after moving into LakeBreeze neighborhood in 2019. After getting over the Covid hiatus, Tom and I began to have a friendship I really cherished. Lots of talks and going together to the retired FSU coach's lunch on Tuesdays. He was always the same good guy every time I got with him. He was a truly kind soul who you wanted to be around, and a really interesting man who accomplished a lot in this life. We are both grateful to have known him at this point in his life and to have been a friend for him. We feel a huge sense of loss.*

Scott and Tazumi Searce

Scott Searce - November 22, 2025 at 12:05 AM

HZ

“ *I met Tom when I relocated to Florida where we happened to work at the same company. Further discussion turned into that we both liked to fish, and then we discovered we kept our boats at the same marina. We were instant friends!
I can't say anything more about Tom that the others before me have commented.
He always had time for me when I saw him or called on the phone.
He was a true friend, and I will miss him tremendously.*

Henry Zieja

Henry Zieja - November 21, 2025 at 02:12 PM

BC

“ Tom was a friend and mentor through our years working together at URS and AECOM. His knowledge and experience with deep injection well drilling and operation made him a recognized leader in the field. His ability to listen and help clients solve their problems gained him their immediate and lasting respect. He was a team player.

Tom will be missed and remembered by all who knew him .

Bob & Liz Cooper

Bob cooper - November 21, 2025 at 10:11 AM

MT

“ Tom was the best neighbor one could ever want. His generosity was only exceeded by his kindness and humility. We will miss his smile and the sight of him walking his sweet dog Matty. We regret not getting to know him better. God Bless you Tom and may He comfort you Doris in this time of need. The Thomas family.

Michael Thomas - November 21, 2025 at 09:35 AM

FF

“ From the Thomas Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Kwader.

From the Thomas Family - November 21, 2025 at 09:25 AM

FF

“ From the Thomas Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Kwader.



From the Thomas Family - November 21, 2025 at 09:25 AM

NP

“ Mr. Kwader, thank you for being a wonderful human being. I appreciate your guidance, support, and friendship over the years. I am grateful for your life as you taught me so many lessons needed to propel my life. Thank you taking the time, for caring, and most of all believing in people especially me. I will always love you.

Natisha Penn - November 21, 2025 at 02:15 AM

CT

“ Dr. Kwader was truly a remarkable man and great friend whose kindness and warmth touched everyone around him. He had a generous spirit and always found time to help others, wherever he went. We will miss the beautiful Christmas card updates on family, activities and achievements. We will miss the fishing trips while “Out of Pocket” and the sound of the horn that marks the spot to set the anchor, cast the lines and catch the big ones. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. We will always remember how he made our family feel loved and valued. We miss you dearly.

Carlton, Faye, Esaias and Family,

Carlton Tinson - November 18, 2025 at 10:31 PM

MM

“ Matt McConnell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Kwader.

Matt McConnell - November 18, 2025 at 07:55 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Kwader.* ”



November 18, 2025 at 07:55 PM

DH

“ Dearest Tom:

Our careers brought us together, but our common interests were the knot. Over the course of the past few weeks, my mind has been flooded with memories of countless adventures we have shared and the stories you

have told over the past 45 years we have been friends. Of course there is offshore fishing, but then there was scalloping, then bear taming...my list goes on and on.

Fishing, for some, may just be a way to idle away time, but for you Capt. Tom, it was a burning passion. You are the only person I have ever known that the smell of stinky bait was a turn-on. You taught us that there is much more to life than fishing; but fishing might be near the top of the list.

To most people, the month of April doesn't bring much other than taxes. But to you, Capt. Tom, it meant the beginning of a new chapter in your life as a season of grouper fishing adventures was about to unfold. You looked forward to each fishing trip with the excitement of a child on Christmas morning. I remember once upon a time when your excitement to get fishing was so overwhelming that the ignition on your truck was left on, it was left to idle away the day patiently awaiting your return.

Capt. Tom you introduced our family to the sport of offshore fishing. Together, we raised our families to love the sea and all the bounties it holds, to fear the sea and all the dangers it presents, and to always respect the sea and share the responsibilities to conserve and restore.

Thank you, Capt. Tom, for helping us create a lifetime of memories. We look forward to someday joining you and Reba, and Maddie, in our celestial Heavenly Home on the Gulf of Tranquility. We know you will be waiting to tie us off, because the ropes always stay on the dock.

You will be missed.

Woody, Sharon, and Jackie



David Hicks - November 18, 2025 at 07:06 PM

TD

“ Tom was a true friend that I met in the Boy Scouts over 50 years ago. He served in several leadership positions in the organization. Tom also earned the premier rank of Eagle Scout. We had many adventures in the Boy Scouts while honing our hiking and camping skills.

Tom was a member of the Oak Ridge High School (ORHS) football team. I watched him in several games which confirmed my decision never to play football. I was also delighted that Tom was a friend who would never tackle me. Tom and I were both on the ORHS track team with his expertise in the shot put and discus and mine in distance running events. Our efforts were rewarded with scholarships to Seminole Junior College (SJC).

Tom and I kept in touch while at FSU. We enjoyed our share of bar hopping along with our serious studies. I am forever grateful that he was watching out for me. I remember several times being deposited at home by him and never remembering leaving the bar. Majoring in geology Tom was also a member of the Spelunking Club. We explored several of the area caves. When Tom entered the field of hydrology I quizzed him about the subject and received a comprehensive lesson.

Tom helped me get a summer job at Deep South Products in the Chek beverage production line. He put in a word for me and I was hired shortly thereafter earning twice the wage at my existing job. Tom raced around on a forklift always keeping busy. There is nothing like working 60 hours a week to help save money.

Tom and I both enjoyed fishing and had many adventures that were fun and exciting but which rarely produced a significant catch. Apparently we were environmentalists and didn't even realize it. Tom also was an archery aficionado. At SJC we enrolled in an archery class. Tom and I had started in the sport in the Boy Scouts so the course was a breeze. The instructor had created an archery golf course. A flag was placed on the green to signify the location of

the goal, which instead of a hole in the ground was a golf ball-sized globe placed on a tee. The object was to impale the ball with an arrow with as few attempts as possible. All went well until a red-winged dove decided to land next to the ball at one of the stations. The object of the game by silent but mutual consent, immediately shifted to shoot the bird. The dove strutted back and forth like a target in a shooting gallery at the county fair as arrows narrowly missed, striking the ground all around it. Tom and I both emptied our quivers without harming the bird one bit. And who said God does not have a sense of humor?

During our twenties it seemed like every time I arrived at his house he was working on his car. One time he had the entire engine pulled using a block and tackle. I think he could fix anything.

Tom also had an amazing talent (you will like this one Doris) when it came to talking the police out of getting a speeding ticket. I observed this twice to my total astonishment.

Tom was one of my best lifelong friends. I learned more about life from Tom than I ever taught him. We shared many great times together. I wish I had stayed in touch better. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Tim Deuerling - November 18, 2025 at 05:08 PM

CB

“ *I worked with TK for over 20 years beginning in 1998 at WCCC. He was always happy to discuss geology and was a wealth of information. I, and many others, will miss his kind nature and dedication to science.*

Candace Beauvais - November 18, 2025 at 02:24 PM

HM

“ Tom was a great teacher and mentor to many. He contributed greatly to our understanding of Florida's complex karst hydrology and geology. He will be missed.

Harley Means - November 13, 2025 at 09:04 AM

BG

“ Didn't happen to know him well but every thank giving he would bring us turkey at AECOM annual thanksgiving luncheon. He was a great person to interact with and will be missed. Thanks Tom.

Bishal Gautam - November 13, 2025 at 08:43 AM

ET

“ Thank you for all you've done for us and for mom, Tom. We love you and miss you. From Jim and Elle

Elle Tarrant - November 12, 2025 at 08:49 PM

KW

“ Always giving, sharing his time, space and picking up the tab. This south trip camping, Tom gave us a great fishing trip on the Grady White. He and Doris could not do enough and Boots and Billy help make it a great day.



Kathy & Mike Weaver - November 09, 2025 at 08:52 PM

DW

“ *Family isn't always blood.* ❤️

We love you, Papa. We will always cherish and share our greatest memories of you—looking out over the lake in the backyard, listening to your stories filled with knowledge and the deep pride you had in your work and the difference you made during your lifetime.

We are so proud that our children got to know you as their Papa. You never sought credit or recognition; you simply wanted those around you to learn, grow, and appreciate the life and nature around us.

Your passion for fixing things wasn't just about what was broken—it was about caring for people, for Doris, for family, and even for others who never asked for help. We'll never forget how you would always quietly wash our windshield before would head home. That small act meant more than you ever knew.

Ryobi tools will always remind us of you and how you were always excited to get and show us your newest Ryobi gadget!

Though we know God calls us home in His time, we are endlessly grateful for the love you didn't have to give—but chose to give to us anyway. You showed us that family is not blood and that it's built through kindness, patience, love and care.

You are the silver lining in our story and life, and we will carry that light forward in your honor.

We love you so much, Papa. Until we meet again—say hi to Maddie for us! ☐

*Always with Love to the Moon stones and Back,
Danny, Lexy, Tatum, Nova & Valor*

Danny and Lexy Williams - November 07, 2025 at 10:38 PM

DH

Well said..Tom is smiling..he loved y'all and was proud of each of you.

David Hicks - November 18, 2025 at 06:25 PM

MB

“ *It's sad when someone you know becomes someone you knew.
Cheers to a truly a great man. Our deepest sympathies....Maria and
Bruce Baker*

Maria Baker - November 07, 2025 at 03:52 PM

JM

“ *What a great fella! Going to miss you brother-in-law❤️ Thank you
for years of good conversation and lots of fun. You will surely be
missed at all the crazy Mueller gatherings. Until we meet again...
love Joe and Brenda*

Joe and Brenda Mueller - November 07, 2025 at 02:12 PM