
Thomas J. Hammond



Hammond, Thomas J. 60 July 20, 1952 Feb. 14, 2013 The family of Thomas J. Hammond sadly announces his passing on Feb. 14, 2013. Tom Hammond was born in Hamilton, Ohio to Robert P. Hammond and Norma G. Tuttle on July 20, 1952. After his father's death, Tom, his brother Kenneth, and mother, Norma, moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. where he attended grade and high school. Tom graduated from the University of South Florida at Tampa in 1974 and received an MBA in Corporate Finance in 1976 from Vanderbilt University's Owen School of Management. He always referred to those Vanderbilt years as the most formative of his career. Following graduation, Tom began to work in the grain business for Cook Industries as a grain merchant trainee. Thereafter, and for his entire career, Tom referred to himself simply as a grain merchant. Cook Industries' Pacific Northwest assets were acquired by the newly-formed Columbia Grain Company in 1978. Tom joined the company as part of the original management team. His career at Columbia Grain involved many different trading and merchandising functions, and he ultimately became CEO in 2000. Tom led the emergence of Columbia Grain as a significant exporter of U.S. wheat from the Pacific Northwest. Tom was an active leader in many state, regional, national and international trade organizations, serving repeatedly as a board member. Among other positions, he served long terms on the boards of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange (1992-2002), the National Grain and Feed Association (1999-2005), the Wheat Marketing Center (since 2002). He was also actively involved in the Portland Merchants Exchange and served as President of the Pacific Northwest Grain Exporters Association from 2004 to 2006. In 2012, he was elected Chairman of the Board of the North American Export Grain Association after many years on NAEGA's board. For Tom, this was a career capping highlight. NAEGA is a hundred year old association of profit and not-for-profit companies and farmer-owned cooperatives providing services to grain and oilseed suppliers, merchants and customers throughout North America. Tom traveled extensively over the years, often with U.S. Wheat Associates, an organization whose purpose is to expand US wheat exports abroad. In that capacity, he visited countries such as Yemen, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Costa Rica, Guatemala and countless other locations. He frequently went to Japan, where Columbia Grains' corporate parent, Marubeni, is based. Personally, however, Tom always looked forward to vacations in South Florida and Hawaii- he loved that warm ocean! The details of Tom's early years and professional achievements do not reveal the man. He was a loving husband and soulmate to his wife, Cheryl, of 33 years. Despite the time and travel requirements of the profession that he loved, Tom was the consummate, doting father to his children, Robert (30) and Katherine (27). He made many friends while growing up in Florida that he valued throughout his life. As a member of the Portland Gold Club, Tom enjoyed rounds of golf, lots of laughs and yet more special friends. When work permitted, he pursued his fitness goals with regular lunchtime workouts at the Multnomah Athletic Club. Tom also found time to mentor young professionals. Thomas J. Hammond enriched many lives by just being who he was. He had an infectious smile, humble but confident mannerisms and a rapier wit. He will truly be missed. A Celebration of Life will be held on March 9 for family, friends and professional colleagues. To make a donation in memory of Tom and to promote lung cancer research, please visit www.cancer.ohsufoundation.org. Fund - Lung Cancer Research and Treatment Program at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute.

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