



## Thomas Euell Herring

July 2, 1938 - October 17, 2020

Thomas Euell Herring, 82, of Sherrills Ford, North Carolina, passed away on October 17, 2020. He was born on July 2, 1938, in Thomaston, GA, to the late Enoch and Mabel Brannon Herring.

Mr. Herring served our country in the Navy for four years, where he was a witness of the testing of Yuma bomb. He worked and retired from the CIA after almost 35 years. He recently published a memoir regarding his time spent in the CIA. He traveled the world and was always passionate about something. That “something” was constantly changing. He loved all of his family dearly and always gave them sound advice.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brothers, Charlie and Larry Herring.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Barbara Herring; children, Teresa Stewart, Deborah Matthews (Mike), Cynthia Dancy (significant other Matt Matilainen), Andrew Whyte (Erika), and Heather Russell (John); grandchildren, Mitchell Stewart, J.T. Dancy, Jack Dancy, Drew Whyte (Leah), Calley Medlock (Zach) Caitlyn Whyte, Audrey Whyte, Cyara Whyte, Alex Matilainen, and Aaron Matilainen; and great-granddaughter, Remington Medlock. Mr. Herring is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Friday, October 23, 2020, from 4:00 – 7:00pm at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, NC. A graveside service will be held at Salisbury National Cemetery on Monday, November 2, 2020, at 2:00pm with military honors being conducted by the United States Navy and Rev. John Miles officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 4600 Park Rd STE 250, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Herring family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Salisbury National Cemetery

501 Statesville Blvd  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **23**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory  
494 East Plaza Drive (PO Box 977)  
Mooresville, NC 28115

## Graveside Service

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

Salisbury National Cemetery  
Salisbury Blvd.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Euell Herring*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Thomas Euell Herring*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Thomas Euell Herring*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Barbara & Family,*

*Jean and I send our sincere sympathies. We have good memories of times shared out on Penngate Drive.*

*Jean & Fred Schooley*

**Jean & Fred Schooley** - October 24, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ *Barbara and family we are so saddened to hear of Tom's passing. We are praying for you all during this difficult time.*

*Jon, Stephanie, Savanna and Caleigh Locklin*

**Stephanie Locklin** - October 24, 2020 at 11:32 AM



GA

“ *Myself and my two girls have only known Tom and Barbara since 2016 when we became neighbors up in the mountains. We have spent many hours sharing stories, sharing a good glass of wine late in the evenings, discussing the affairs of state and we of course knew the answer to all the worlds problems. He will be so very much missed. The world is a little less fun without him. Barbara don't be a stranger up in the hills. We will miss you. Gloria A. #165 Little Ck. 🙏❤️*

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**gloria Austin** - October 24, 2020 at 12:58 AM

BH

“ *I met Tom Herring some years ago thanks to mutual friend John Runski, another local radio collector and amateur radio operator here in Sherrills Ford NC. Tom loved anything radio-related and his radio knowledge and enthusiasm were amazing.*

*Tom told us he had been working on his memoirs but wouldn't share specifics. As soon as I heard of his passing I looked on Amazon and saw he succeeded:*

*"CIA Privileged Access" (book):*

*<https://www.amazon.com/Cia-Privileged-Access-Tom-Herring/dp/1532090447>*

*I immediately ordered and I'm looking forward to hearing more from Tom...!*

*Tom, it was my privilege and pleasure knowing you. Rest Well.*

*Brian Harrison  
KN4R*

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**Brian Harrison** - October 23, 2020 at 07:25 PM

MC

“ We met Tom and Barbara after all their years of adventures when they settled down here in Sherrills Ford, North Carolina. We have been next-door neighbors for almost 20 years. They have been the best kind of neighbors....always friendly and fun to be with yet dependable in any crisis. Tom has been through a lot of health issues during this time and has been amazing in his determination to beat any challenge. Through the years, Tom talked about his book. We are so glad that he finished it, and we cannot wait to read it now that it is published. We only knew that they both worked for the government, but never knew the details. Barbara has been by his side through everything. We wish her the very best during this difficult time. She knows that we are just across the driveway - or only a telephone call away if she needs anything at all. With sincere sympathy to Barbara and the rest of Tom's family, Henry and Marlyn Crespo

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**Marlyn and Henry Crespo** - October 20, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ I first met Tom in 1978 at the old OSS headquarters building in Washington D.C., however I had heard of his exploits years before that, He came onboard about 3 years before I did and up until then we had never served at the same location at the same time. Tom was the voice of experience and he was always willing to share his knowledge and operational experience with our younger colleagues. If you wanted an extra set of eyes to review your operational proposal then Tom was the guy you went to. We did several TDYs until we both received overseas assignments, not to meet up again for about 5 years then we both went overseas to the same location and one of my final operational TDYs was to Eastern Europe with Tom in 1991. Tom was a professional intelligence officer and I am proud to have known him, served with him, and benefited from his knowledge and experience. I echo the comments of another colleague, he was a great friend and he will be missed by many; end of an era. Thank you for your service to our country Tom. Jim Joyce

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**Jim Joyce** - October 20, 2020 at 01:13 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas Euell Herring.



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October 19, 2020 at 05:21 PM

RG

“ Tom and I met in 1963 on the lovely island of Cyprus and have remained friends ever since even though our contact was broken many times due to assignments to different parts of the world. However, every time we reconnected it was just like we saw each other the week before. We worked together for a while In India, ran into each other in London, and our paths crossed many times in the States between overseas assignments. After we both retired in Northern Virginia we met for lunch regularly and then we moved to North Carolina about the same time and the frequent lunches continued. Tom was always a pleasure to be around and we could disagree, but that only stimulated the conversation and we normally solved all the world problems even though no one of any significance agreed with us. Tom was a great friend and will be sadly missed by many, and definitely by me. Cheers Tom and rest easy; you deserve it. Dick Gibson

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**Richard Gibson** - October 19, 2020 at 05:02 PM

DZ

“ I am so sorry for your loss.

*Tom was a kind and valued friend from our first meeting with him and his young family in New Delhi, India in the late 60's. He and his family were our designated sponsors at the US Embassy and enabled us to adjust and thrive at our very first foreign service posting! Over the years we managed to meet up in Virginia during our respective home leaves. Our children grew up knowing they had "connections" in far flung parts of the world.*

*When my first husband passed away, Tom was there to help my son connect the stereo equipment in our new house. He was not just a good talker, he could take charge when the need arose!*

*Tom first introduced me to his lovely wife Barbara in London many years later. He was retired from the Agency, but still active. Barbara patiently listened to all our old stories over a wonderful Southern style homecooked meal. I look forward to reading his memoir!*

*Tom leaves behind Terresa, Deborah, Cynthia & Barbara...three strong women.*

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**Diane B Zack** - October 19, 2020 at 12:35 PM

CD

*Diane, thank you so much for these kind words. My dad thought the world of you - we all do! Your many years of friendship with my family has enriched our lives. Thank you.*

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**Cynthia Herring Dancy** - October 19, 2020 at 03:17 PM



*I had the pleasure of knowing Tom for only a brief period of time compared to so many of you. I envy the decades you shared. He will always hold a cherished spot in the hearts of Me, My Mom Gloria, My sister Rebecca and My Navy Niece Jasmine. We were the “other neighbors” on the Mountain in our quiet part of the world. I pray some day I get to read those memories he spoke so often about writing. Thank You Sir for your service to our country for so many years. Thank you to his family for the love and support you provided him through those years. And I pray Gods Peace be with you and hold you strong through your memories of fun, Love and happiness of days gone by. We will all meet again one day...*

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**Kim Austin** - October 23, 2020 at 04:06 PM