

## **Thomas Chalma Andersen**

Thomas Chalma Andersen, 81, of Colorado, passed away Wednesday, June 3, 2009 in the Boulder Manor Care and Rehab Center in Boulder, Colorado.

Memorial services were held Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. at the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Cherokee, Iowa. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Cherokee. On line condolences may be left at [www.boothbyfuneral.com](http://www.boothbyfuneral.com).

Thomas was born June 27, 1927 in Sioux Rapids, Iowa to Irving and Byrdie (Chalma) Andersen.

He graduated from Wilson High School in 1945, While at Wilson, he wrote for the school newspaper, was a member of the Pen and Quill Club, competed in track and was the Senior Class President. He was married to Marguerite Ellen France on January 22, 1955 at home of her parents, Ray and Millicent France in Cherokee.

Tom had a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy from 1945 until 1986. He rose from the enlisted ranks of the Navy and retired with the rank Captain. Tom earned a BA degree in Southeast Asian studies as well as a Master's in Business Administration from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and also attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington D.C. in 1973. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam in 1965 and 1972, served as the Supply Officer of the carrier USS Independence from 1975-1977, and was the first commanding officer of the Naval Supply Center in Pensacola, FL, which he established. After retiring from the U.S. Navy he worked for three years as a civilian consultant to the Kuwaiti Air Force where he helped them computerize their inventory.

Tom was an avid endurance athlete, competed in several marathons and was the founder and the first race director for the Blue Angels Marathon in Pensacola, FL. Tom completed the Pike's Peak Ascent to 14,110 feet near Colorado Springs in 2001 and in his seventies competed four years in a row in the Colorado 24 hour relay in which he was usually the oldest competitor.

Tom's friends and family will remember him as a kind and loving man who lived his life according to values and accomplished a great deal. Many friends and family members will miss him.

He is survived by his wife Marguerite Ellen (France) Andersen of Eldora, Colorado; his son Chris Andersen and his wife Anne Meyer Andersen of Tulsa, Oklahoma; his grandchildren: Dean Reynolds Stanton, Renee Michelle Andersen, and Morgan Chalma Andersen; his sister Joan Steele of Cherokee, Iowa; his brother Paul Andersen of Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Cherokee; sons-in-law, Charles Terzian and Thomas Stanton.

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