



Thomas Alvin Kilcullen

June 4, 1936 - January 22, 2025

Thomas Alvin Kilcullen, born on June 4, 1936, in Des Plaines, Illinois, passed away peacefully on January 22, 2025, in Newnan, Georgia, at the age of 88.

Thomas's life was devoted to his passion for dogs. He built a remarkable legacy in the American Kennel Club (AKC) community, excelling as a handler, breeder, and judge. His expertise, dedication, and love for his craft earned him respect and admiration in the field. He received an English Toy Spaniel Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, and upon his retirement, Thomas was honored with the title of Emeritus Judge.

Thomas is survived by his loving companion, Joe Bailey, and his son, Terry Kilcullen, along with his daughter-in-law, Francine Kilcullen. He was a proud grandfather to Jorel (Lauren) and Cora (Kevin) and a cherished great-grandfather to Jocelynn, Rowan, and Charles. Thomas is also survived by his siblings William (Mary) Kilcullen, Betty (Bob) Jung, and Shirley Wagner; his siblings-in-law Pat and Sharon; his brother-in-law Joe; as well as multiple nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Kilcullen and Irene (Mueller) Kilcullen, and his siblings John, Ellen, Edward, and Fredrick, along with his brother-in-law Bill.

He was a private man with a vast group of friends and a lifetime of incredible travels, and he remained quick-witted with a fantastic sense of humor until his final days.

Thomas will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to his work, his kindness, and his enduring love for animals. His contributions to the AKC community and his compassionate presence will be greatly missed.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

A Memorial and Celebration of Life will be held for family and close friends on June 6th, 2025, at 11:30 AM at Ridgewood Memorial Park in Des Plaines, IL.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Take the Lead @ <https://takethelead.org/>

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 6. 11:30 AM.

Ridgewood Memorial Park

Tribute Wall

CC

“ I absolutely loved spending time with Tom. We would meet outside of the ring at the dog show and he would regale me of tales of days of lore. What a wealth of information he was. Quick witted and funny, the time would just pass away. He will be sorely missed by the people who were lucky enough to know him. My heart is broken but i know he rests. Farewell my friend, know that you were loved.

Cydne Clark - January 31, 2025 at 02:05 AM

BH

Tommy was the BEST. Life often separates us, but the decades do not matter to the heart. Sleepsweet my friend.

Barbara Heckerman - January 31, 2025 at 10:17 AM

TM

“ I knew Tom for such a long time thru dogs. He was such a kind and affable man. Tom prided himself in showing one of the famous old time dogs of my rather rare breed and regaled me with anecdotes about his experiences- which were before my time. One day an envelope arrived unexpectedly containing the gift of a 8x10 photo of Tom showing “ Henry” the Briard . I still treasure that gift from him. Fare thee well my friend. I am glad to have known you. My sincere condolences to the family . Tom is missed.

Terry Miller - January 30, 2025 at 09:54 PM

JC

Tom and I first met at Northwest Obedience and Conformation Training facilities in Palatine, Illinois oh so many years ago. We would go out as a group to eat after training and of course talk dogs!!

Tom's first love was Collies and he became a well known representative of the breed and continued on as a professional handler then retired to judging. We were good friends and always looked forward to seeing each other after his move to Georgia. Tom was a genuine good man with a sparkle in his eye and a soft smile. One of the kindest people I have ever known. I shall carry a special place in my heart for your friendship old friend. My sincere condolences to his family and many friends. He will be missed by so many that knew him from our sport. Until another time Tim 💔💕

Judith Cooper - February 06, 2025 at 11:24 AM