

C. Tom Brown

Charles Thomas (Tom) Brown, Ph.D., of Dahlonega, GA and former resident of Atlanta, GA, lost his courageous battle with glioblastoma brain cancer on February 15, 2018.

Tom was born on December 21, 1941 to the late James Wiley Brown and Jane Barber Brown in Montgomery, AL. Tom graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, AL and came to Atlanta, GA in 1960 to attend The Georgia Institute of Technology. He received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Physics from Georgia Tech. He was elected to Tau Beta Pi and was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon social fraternity. He was co-founder of the Georgia Tech Scuba Jackets.



Before completing his Ph.D. degree, Tom started working for the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) where he ultimately served 33 years, retiring there in 2004. While at GTRI, he was director of the Georgia Tech Solar Test Facility and later developed the GTRI IT department. At GTRI he mentored many younger employees and students, taking pleasure in seeing others succeed. He was a life-long Georgia Tech fan.

Tom coached girls' fast pitch softball in Dekalb County parks and on traveling teams for about 20 years. He also later coached adult slow pitch teams. He loved to coach and help the players improve their skills with the purpose of enjoying the game. This softball coaching continued with his granddaughters and even baseball coaching with the grandsons.

As a life-long learner, one of his personal achievements was learning to fly a plane at the age of 60. He enjoyed the challenges presented to him as a pilot. Tom and his wife, Donna, moved from Atlanta to Dahlonega, GA in 2009.

Tom loved his God, his family and his country. He was a 51 year member of North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta where he served as deacon. He was very proud of and grateful for the family that he was given; he loved his girls and all the grandchildren so much. For his country, he spent about 10 years fighting for the FairTax initiative to become law. His efforts propelled the FairTax bill to be written for the state of Georgia and hopefully, will one day become law.

Tom is survived by his wife of 51 years, Donna Evans Brown of Dahlonega, GA, formerly Atlanta, GA, and his three daughters, Michele Brown Connell (Dan) of Ringgold, GA; Yvonne Brown Barrineau (Curtis) of Snellville, GA; and Laura Brown Smucker (Jason) of Marietta, GA; and seven grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother Gene Brown (Paula) of Ramer, AL and a sister Beverly Prescott (Pete) of Wetumpka, AL.

The family will receive visitors on Friday, February 23, 2018, from 5-7 PM at Dahlenega Funeral Home, 20 Gibson Road, Dahlenega, GA. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 1 PM at North Avenue Presbyterian Church, 607 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that tribute donations be made to the American Brain Tumor Association in the name of C. Thomas Brown at <http://www.abta.org/> or send a check to the ABTA at 8550 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 550, Chicago IL 60631.

This obituary was drawn from one [published online](#) by *Access North Georgia* and *WDUN* and from Institute records.