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Thomas Sherwood Martin
Cornell Engineering 1961
March 31, 2024

Thomas Sherwood Martin, whose productive and charitable life carried him to many parts of the world, passed away on Easter, March 31, 2024 in Heppenheim, Germany. He was 87.

A New Jersey native, Tom graduated from Cornell with an engineering degree in 1961 and began a career as an Army officer with an assignment in Germany. There he met and, in 1966, married Margret Franzen. Soon afterward, he began the first of two 12-month tours in the Vietnam War. After 20 years of service, he retired to Heppenheim as a lieutenant colonel in 1982.

Tom's following three decades based in Germany involved work for a series of contractors that carried him, often with Margret, to work in China, Croatia, Bosnia and Belgium. In 2000, the Martins also hosted a number of '59 Alpha Deltas and spouses.

"Tom and Margaret were delightful hosts to us and many others over the years," said '59 brother Dan Hall.

In his later years, Tom was active with the local Lions Club. His service to others included language support to German kindergarteners and transferring English-language books to Rwanda when the African country officially adopted the language. And in 2015 he and fellow members of a choir flew to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall.

Bill Dring, another brother, wrote, "Tom had a wonderful sense of humor, and I liked that he followed American news and was a patriot even though he lived in Germany. He also had a wonderful sense of family."

Tom is survived by Margret, their daughter and son-in-law Anna and Benno Löning, grandsons Henrik and Oskar, and his sister, Patsy Mullins.

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