

In Loving Memory



Thomas Edward Gentis

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers and sisters, we don't want you to be ignorant about those who have died. We don't want you to grieve like other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and came back to life. We also believe that, through Jesus, God will bring back those who have died. They will come back with Jesus. We are telling you what the Lord taught. We who are still alive when the Lord comes will not go into his kingdom ahead of those who have already died. The Lord will come from heaven with a command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the dead who believed in Christ will come back to life. Then, together with them, we who are still alive will be taken in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. In this way we will always be with the Lord. 18 So then, comfort each other with these words!

Thomas Edward Gentis

Tom Gentis, the mere mention of his name conjures up his piercing brown eyes, the scratchy beard of a grizzled cowboy, and the haunting notes of a soulful song by Bob Dylan. Tom did not merely live for the sake of life; he captured the best of human souls and heavenly spirits in the brush strokes of his art and shared it with the world.

What an awesome gift from God, to experience the world the way Tom did. He didn't merely see things and then paint them. It's like he crept into the soul of his subjects and stared back at us. What did he see? What did he feel? How did it sound? Only Tom knows that. He gave us glimpses and insights into his world, but Tom was a man who colored life with his own palette, mixing in and creating brilliant hues of love and laughter.

As a husband, Tom danced across the canvas of life with Debi, his muse, his wife and his best friend. Thirty-four years together was a start, but forever is where they will finish eternity-snuggling up close, holding hands with matching rings and painting one another with the colors of love known only in heaven. Tom took Debi's hand in marriage and she held his hand as the Lord welcomed Tom home...where he will never again have to reach deep-down to find the inks of agony to paint living pictures of pain. Today, Tom's spirit is painting on the walls of heaven and we can only hope and pray that the Lord blesses our eternal mansions with a Tom Gentis original.

Father to Amber, Adam and Andrea, Tom spent three lifetimes teaching, inspiring and loving. Endless ball games, movie dates, hugs and fatherly advice...each has their own texture, color and place in the Gentis family portrait. Memories may seem gray on this day, but the Lord will add Technicolor to your hearts, lives and minds once again. Look for your father and "his Father" in the beauty that surrounds you every day...there will be angels in every form, colorful characters that bless your life, and most especially the natural beauty that abounds around and in each one of you. Your parents inked you with love from the inside out and they are so proud of the way you rub off and imprint the lives of others.

Not many of us get a grandpa with a cool ponytail, but Noah and Hudson were blessed with a vibrant heritage that they have drawn from their "Ackey" even before they were born. The images he has given to us will frame the lives of the next generation of Gentis' and beyond. Tom lives on in our hearts and minds, but he truly lives on in the blood of his children and grandchildren.

Tom Gentis was a good friend, co-worker and child of God. He always had a twinkle in his eyes, like he knew something really good but was not going to share it. He painted with a fervor that seemed to be a premonition of what was to come, but he most assuredly entered heaven knowing his mission was complete. Tom's journey was one that must have stored up celestial treasures that no earthly king could boast. We can only imagine the radiant jewel-toned designs in his crown. If 'well done' were a color, we know that Tom Gentis painted with it often.

Tears, too, have a color that come from a broken heart and flow freely to the throne of God. Our Father's nail-scarred hand will wipe our eyes, His loving arms will surround our tired bodies, and His Holy Spirit will comfort our grieving hearts. Today, an artist and a carpenter started a new project together and we can all look forward to the day when we enter the golden gates and behold a gallery of living color, a place where joy and love capture the images of the saints. How glorious to have known such a man and his family. Tom would be the first to tell you; live, laugh and love to the utmost...God's will and His plan are perfect. Just imagine the painting of Tom's life and you will see it's titled..."God is good...all the time."

Thomas Edward Gentis

Born

May 23, 1953 - Springfield, Ohio

Went Home to be with the Lord

April 17, 2009 - Norman, Oklahoma

Service

3:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 21, 2009

First Baptist Church

Newcastle, Oklahoma

Officiating

Pastor Doug Parker

Eulogy

Adam Gentis

Music / Slideshow

Bob Dylan - Forever Young

Closing Words

Pastor Doug Parker

Blessing

Pastor Doug Parker

**A reception will be held at the Gentis home
following service.**

3813 Kilby Avenue

Forever Young **by Bob Dylan**

May God bless and keep you always,
May your wishes all come true,
May you always do for others
And let others do for you.
May you build a ladder to the stars
And climb on every rung,
May you stay forever young,
Forever young, forever young,
May you stay forever young.

May you grow up to be righteous,
May you grow up to be true,
May you always know the truth
And see the lights surrounding you.
May you always be courageous,
Stand upright and be strong,
May you stay forever young,
Forever young, forever young,
May you stay forever young.

May your hands always be busy,
May your feet always be swift,
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift.
May your heart always be joyful,
May your song always be sung,
May you stay forever young,
Forever young, forever young,