



# Thomas James McClements

JAN 4, 1930 - AUG 24, 2021



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DICKEN, DOVIN & REBER JONES  
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# Thomas James McClements

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## Thomas McClements Obituary

Thomas James McClements was a smart, tenderhearted, and patient husband and father who loved singing, golfing, and gardening. He was determined to see another season of flowers grow in his yard despite a number of worsening health issues, including COPD. He planted dahlia tubers in May, and saw them bloom before he died at age 91 August 24, 2021. Born in Elyria January 4, 1930, to James and Mabel (nee Halliday) McClements, Tom grew up on the west side playing with his McNulty cousins, working at Lindway's grocery store, delivering newspapers, and speed boating on Lake Erie in his pride and joy, "The Galloping Schmo." (He carried a photo of the Schmo in his wallet until the end.) He was a 1947 graduate of Elyria High School. He met Helen Kader at the 2nd Congregational Church, and they married in 1950. While serving in the US Army in Austria, Tom became a ham radio operator, and enjoyed continuing it as a hobby stateside. After returning to Elyria, he worked as an electrician and supervisor at Ohio Edison, where he retired after more than 40 years. Tom was a lifelong contributing member of Lake Avenue United Church of Christ, including serving as a deacon and singing in the choir since he was fourteen. A choir friend invited Tom to the local barbershop chorus, and he took to it immediately. He sang in many different quartets, and directed the Cascade Chordsmen for a time. He was particularly known for impersonating George Burns singing "Old Bones" with the Olde Tyme Design. Tom was an excellent handyman and electrician. Their church knew that he was always nearby to fix a leaky ceiling or blown fuse. He built a china cupboard to practice his stained glass skills, and then made stunning lamps and windows for his family. He could lay a brick walkway or erect a stone wall without instructions. A lifelong learner, at age 83 he acquired an iPad and learned to use email. At 80 he switched his green thumb from growing 150 roses to scores of dahlias, with equally dazzling results. Tom enjoyed raising four



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daughters alongside his flowers. He helped with their piano lessons, took them ice skating, taught them cribbage, chaperoned bicycle trips, and put them through college by taking on extra jobs. An attempt to create a McClements “Sweet Adelines” quartet did not work out; he didn’t pass on his singing ability to his girls. After retirement he spent much of his time gardening, golfing, exercising at the gym, and meeting colleagues for breakfast. He was proud of his Scottish heritage, and officially joined his clan, Lamont. He relished Scottish shortbread and oatcakes, but equally enjoyed Helen’s Hungarian cabbage rolls. He and Helen led an active social life, vacationing with church groups, friends, and relatives. Although he was a man of few words, many people were touched by Tom. He delighted in delivering bouquets of prize dahlias and roses to his waitresses, nurses, and golf clerks, and they all knew him by name. It was well known that you could stop by the side porch in August for the pick of his giant tomatoes. In the past few years COPD lessened some of his abilities, but after each bout he would amazingly rebound. In 2020 he was still playing golf and spreading manure in his garden, and he was answering Jeopardy questions the night he died. He had a wry sense of humor and seldom complained. Instead, he put all of his efforts into getting better for the sake of Helen and his family. We are thankful to have had him in our lives for so many wonderful years. Survivors include Tom’s wife of 70 years, Helen; daughters Nancy McClements (Ian Gaylor), Barb Renard (Jim), Janice McClements (Larry Oros), and Carol Slater (Charles); grandchildren Megan Ebbers (Eric), Colin and Erin Slater, Sarah Hauge (Ben), Jonathan Renard (Mollie Fitzgerald); step-granddaughter Kim Howell (Dan); great-grandchildren Liam and Luca Ebbers and Murphy Renard; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Beatrice de la Pena. Friends will be received Friday, August 27, 2021 from 4:00-7:00 pm at Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 323 Middle Ave, Elyria. A funeral service will be Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 11: 00 am in the funeral home with Reverend Thomas French officiating. Burial will be in Brookdale Cemetery, Elyria. Masks are required. Memorial contributions in Tom’s name may be made to Harmony Foundation International or Community of Faith United Church of Christ. Visitation Dicken Funeral Home and Cremation Service Friday, August 27, 2021 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM 323



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Middle Ave.Elyria, OH 44035 Funeral ServiceDicken Funeral Home and Cremation  
ServiceSaturday, August 28, 2021 11:00 AM 323 Middle Ave.Elyria, OH 44035  
GravesideBrookdale CemeterySaturday, August 28, 2021 41600 Oberlin Elyria  
RoadElyria, OH 44035

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Thomas James McClements, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



## Tribute Wall

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NM

**Nancy McClements** posted:

Thank you for your kind thoughts. I know you will enjoy this video of my dad singing in the Olde Tyme Design he is on the right. Watch Video

September 2 at 8:00 PM

DF

**Dugan, Cane, Sullivan Families** posted:

In Loving Memory of Thomas James McClements, May the love of friends and family carry you through your grief. A Sympathy Gift of Group of 10 Memorial Trees has been Planted In Loving Memory of Thomas James McClements courtesy of Dugan, Cane, Sullivan families.

August 26 at 8:00 PM

AN

**Amber Guzinski (Nail)** posted:

As a fellow Elyria High School graduate and lover of flowers, your legacy will continue in the hearts and lives of everyone blessed to know you. May you Rest In Peace.

August 26 at 8:00 PM

AK

**Alana Kelley** posted:

Every time I walk by Dahlias in a garden I think of Tom and the Fahlias he showed me with such pride. They were amazing. And he was amazing. He and Helen gave me the classic antique suitcase we used for worship when moving from one church to another. Gentle, kind, gifted, he will be missed, till we meet again.

August 26 at 8:00 PM

CB

**Charles Blazina Jr** posted:

So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I worked with Tom at Ohio Edison for many years and remained friends with him after his retirement. Tom was one of the nicest guys I have ever met. Always upbeat, friendly, willing to help, and had a great wit and sense of humor. Tom will be greatly missed !! Tom, I'll see you on the other side my friend. You can show me around that beautiful mansion in the sky that the Lord built for you.....

August 25 at 8:00 PM



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BA

**Barbara Armitage** posted:

Dear Helen, Nancy and family, We send our deepest condolences and we share your sadness. Tom was a wonderful person that we will truly miss. Love, Barb Armitage and Robert Shapter

August 25 at 8:00 PM

KC

**Kim M Christensen** posted:

Nancy and Helen and family, Our deepest condolences for your loss. Kim Moore Christensen and Karen Moore

August 24 at 8:00 PM

AB

**Anita Brindza** posted:

Janice and family: Sincere condolences on the passing of your beloved father. How blessed your are to have both your mother and father in your life so long. Your father will now be resting in the arms of our Lord, free from worldly pain but keeping a watchful eye on all his girls.

August 24 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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