



Thomas Romer

February 16, 1934 - August 7, 2024

It is with great sadness that the family of Tom Romer of Salem, MO announces his passing from this life on August 7, 2024 at the age of 90 years. Tom was born Feb 16, 1934 in Jamestown, North Dakota to parents Irwin (“Bud”) and Dolores Romer. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Tony who died in infancy, his older sister Diane, and his brother Chuck. He will lovingly be missed by his wife Marie of Salem, daughter Dianne and son-in-law Perry Dodge of Wentzville, daughter Colleen and son-in-law Michael Ahland of Long Beach, CA. He will also be sorely missed by his grandchildren Hannah Dodge, Zoe Dodge and Carrick Ahland as well as by his younger brother Danny Romer of Boulder, CO.

Tom grew up in Jamestown, ND. After his father died when he was only seventeen years old, he devoted himself to raising his two younger brothers. At the age of 19, he joined the Army and served on active duty during the Korean War era until 1955. After receiving an honorable release from active duty, he went on to study at Jamestown College and Seattle University where he received a degree in Chemistry. Growing up Catholic, he was always interested in religious and spiritual pursuits and thus felt a calling to train with the Jesuits. He began Jesuit formation in 1958, devoting himself to Jesuit study and practice for nine years; he left before taking his final vows. His Jesuit training took him to St. Louis University in St Louis, MO where he received a MS in Analytical Chemistry and PhL in Philosophy of Science at St. Louis University in 1967 and met his wife Marie. They quickly fell in love and

were married that same year.

Soon after getting married, he started a position as a research chemist at Ralston Purina in St. Louis, MO and thus began a long career as a chemist. Tom was always innovative and eventually started his own part-time business in his basement selling test kits for mycotoxins (mold toxins). He made it a family business, employing his wife as well as both his young daughters. He and his family moved to Washington MO in 1980. By 1982 he left Purina and established Romer Labs, Inc. as his full-time business. While running his own laboratory, he applied for and was granted numerous patents for his inventions, one of which was the Romer Mill. His business grew and was very successful - so much so that he opened an office in Mexico City and was awarded Missouri Exporter of the Year. In 1999, he sold his business and retired. Always the innovator, he moved to Colorado and experimented with growing herbs as a business. He and his wife later returned to Missouri living in various places including Salem, MO.

Tom's life was centered around prayer and Bible study, and his interests grew to include the intersection of creationism and science. Tom devoted many of his retirement years to writing books about creationism, the first was entitled *Interpreting Genesis: What's science got to do with it?* His second book, *From Abraham to the Big Bang Era* which he finished recently, will be published posthumously. Tom and Marie were deeply involved in multiple church communities including First Christian Church in Washington, MO as well as Heritage Bible Church of St. Charles, First Christian Church of Salem and First Baptist Church of Salem. Tom was a deeply spiritual man of many talents. He was a devoted husband and a wonderful father and grandfather. He will be dearly missed.

Private services were held on Friday, August 9, 2024 at the Fort Leonard Wood Veterans Cemetery in Waynesville, Missouri with Pastor Tim Hill officiating. Tom was interned with full Military Honors.