



## Thomas H Thompson

January 10, 1924 - April 28, 2016

Thomas H. Thompson 1924-2016

Thomas H. Thompson died on April 28, 2016, at NewAldaya. He was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1924, to parents Ruth and Elmer Thompson.

He was married to Diane Sargent Thompson for 58 years, until her death on his 91st birthday, January 10, 2015. He is survived by his children Brenda Thompson, Alicia Kamm (and her husband Tom Kamm), Mark Thompson, and Rosemary Thompson; and his grandchildren Evan, Brian, and Lydia Kamm.

Thomas began playing in jazz and dance bands while a student at East High School in Sioux City, and for a time had a full-time job playing jazz in a nightclub. He continued playing his baritone saxophone in band jobs through the 50s and 60s, and much later with the Cedar Falls Municipal Band and with his own California Street Sax Quartet, which performed at community events.

He earned his undergraduate (1948), master's (1950), and PhD (1952) all in philosophy at the University of Iowa. He spent his entire career at the University of Northern Iowa, starting as an instructor in philosophy in 1952. He rose up through the ranks, becoming the first head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion in 1969, and then dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts in 1981. He went back to teaching large sections in humanities

in the liberal arts core program in 1990, and was named a professor emeritus upon his retirement in 1994.

Thomas was a regular contributor to the editorial page of the Waterloo Courier, and participated in UNI's Emeritus Association, the town-and-gown supper club, a decades-long book club, and several lunch groups with his former colleagues.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, June 1, at 11 a.m. at Richardson Funeral Home, 615 Main Street in Cedar Falls. All are welcome.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
[richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com](mailto:richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com)  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ *To the Thompson Family*  
*From: John Focht*

*I was saddened to hear of Professor Thompson's passing. I was further saddened when I found that we would be traveling at the time of his Celebration of Life.*

*I had "T" for one of the Humanities courses when I went to school at ISTC many years ago. He was an excellent teacher and I enjoyed being in his class.*

*I enjoyed all of the Thompson family when I was principal at Cedar Heights School. I was looking forward to seeing you all again but that won't work out.*

*I will be thinking of you all on the 28 th and will be with you in spirit.*

*Sincerely, John Focht*

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**John/judy Focht** - May 20, 2016 at 06:59 AM

JH

“ Dear Brenda, Alicia, and Rosemary,

*As Tom's life was waning, last conversations continued to be about UNI, Supper Club, and music. The Courier had a fine lengthy article about Tom, enabling so many of us to recall his vibrant days at UNI. Among other departments in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts was mine (then called Communicative Disorders). Since we both received graduate degrees at the University of Iowa, Tom enjoyed tweaking me about various professors and experiences there. At the annual UNI Emeritus Association's annual spring luncheon this past Saturday, Tom was noted for his years of service as Vice-Chair and for sending us all monthly meeting announcements for so very long.*

*Until the memorial service, my condolences to you all,*

*Judith Harrington*

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**Judith Harrington** - May 05, 2016 at 07:18 AM