



Anthony James Wingenter, S.D.S.

Date of Birth November 7, 1938

Date of Commitment December 8, 2000

Date of Death December 20, 2007

Tony Wingenter was born in Beeville, Texas on November 7, 1938. He graduated from AC Jones High School in 1956. In 1960 he graduated from St. Mary University in San Antonio with a degree in chemistry and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He married his devoted wife, Carolyn Griffin on September 26, 1964. After serving twenty years in the U.S. Army, Tony retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1980. His last duty assignment was at Redstone Arsenal, near Huntsville. It was here in Huntsville where Tony and Carolyn decided to stay and raise their growing family. Tony's second career included over 20 years of work at BDM International, Inc. which became Northrop-Grumman.

Tony was a devoted family man. He was very proud of his four daughters, Anne, Mary Pat, Barbara and Karen and his two sons, Tony and John and he delighted in his grandchildren, Trey, Kathryn, Matthew, Caroline and Kate. He loved his daughter-in-law Rhonda and his son-in-laws Chris and Lorenzo. He was never happier than when he was surrounded by his family and the love in the air was evident when the Wingenters were together. His children are a living testimony to such a wonderful father.

Tony cared deeply about many issues but his heart was definitely in St. Joseph Parish and in Holy Family School. He served on the School Board, worked many years directing the financial operations on Funday, served as Parish Council President, developed the first database of parishioners and volunteered in any way that he was asked. He always tried to empower others to become involved in the parish. He loved getting folks together whether for a project or just for fun. His spirit of hospitality was dynamic.

One of the characteristics that defined Tony was his penchant for playing the "devil's advocate". He could easily drive one crazy in a meeting when he would take the opposite point of view just to stir the pot and get things going. It was hard to stay mad at him long however, because his goodness and caring attitude were never far below the surface.

Besides marrying the love of his life, Carolyn, the high point of Tony's life was when he became a Lay Salvatorian. Tony was a born Salvatorian and gave verbal witness to that reality on December 8, 2000. Throughout his life Tony always demonstrated the Salvatorian charism of hospitality and mission. And as in all the other areas of his life, he jumped in with both feet becoming the Huntsville local leader, a member of the Southern Regional Board, and Executive Secretary of the Lay Salvatorian National Board. He worked tirelessly on all levels and his hard work and dedication is evident in where the Lay Salvatorians USA are at this point in time.

The last few years were hard on Tony with his many illnesses but he soldiered on until the very end. Whenever folks would visit him, he would always be grateful and still retained his great sense of humor. His favorite response to the question, "how are you" was to say "dreadfully sober". On his last morning when the doctor was leaving his room Tony said to him, "Come by and see me...don't be a stranger". That was Tony, always reaching out, always welcoming, always having time for others...no matter how badly he was feeling.

Tony, we will miss you but we know that you are in a better place. We will always remember you with fondness and love and for the ways you made us better people.