



Thomas Clinton Austin

July 25, 1938 - December 29, 2025

Thomas C. Austin, 87, of Peoria, passed away on Monday, December 29, 2025, at Accolade Healthcare of Peoria, surrounded by loving family. Born in Coffeen, IL, on July 25, 1938, he was the son of the late Elbert and Lila (Kimbrow) Austin. On April 19, 1961, he married Dorothea Buckingham in Weathersfield, CT. Of Peoria, she survives.

Further surviving Tom are his four children, Elizabeth (Timothy) Barnes, Bonnie Austin, Jeremy Scott (Holly) Austin, and Joel (Emily) Austin; seven grandchildren, Heather Barnes, Zachary (Angie) Barnes, Aaron Austin, Jessica (Wade) Woodhouse, Heidi (Aaron) Fowler, Brent (Emma) Austin, and Ian (Heather) Austin; and nine great-grandchildren, Dirk, Riley, Shay, Aurora, Everett, Jackson, Everleigh, Eloise, and Elizabeth.

Tom attended Greenville College and Moody Bible Institute where he met Dorothea. He was employed as a salesman, owned and operated his business "Austin Associates", and was a part-time minister and missionary. He was a man of faith and was eager to share about Christ. He will be remembered for his compassionate and gentle nature. You could count on him to have a "Dad Joke" ready to go.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Trailside Event Center, 4416 N. Prospect Rd. in Peoria Heights, at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to www.legacydisciples.org/donate. To leave condolences online, please visit www.schmidthaller.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Trailside Event Center
4416 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Clinton Austin.*



January 07 at 03:02 PM



“ *Andy Green planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Clinton Austin.*

Andy Green - January 06 at 10:06 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Clinton Austin.*



January 06 at 10:06 AM



“ *We enjoyed the times together with Tom and Dottie in a ministry at the Juvenile Delinquency Center of Peoria. We extend our sympathy to Dottie for this temporary absence of him from her presence.*

Gary & Jody Finley - January 05 at 12:32 PM

LM

“ Love, Mom/Carol purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Thomas Clinton Austin.



Love, Mom/Carol - December 31, 2025 at 12:03 PM



“ Sorry to hear. As neighbors, Tom and Dottie were always welcoming friends inviting me in for a cup of coffee and biscuits or a chat. Lots of warm history shared both ways. I learned a lot about their ministry and our shared love for youth. Tom leaves a long legacy of instilling hope and joy in countless persons. I feel privileged to have sat at his feet. His body has moved on, but his spirit continues to live in all of us. May he rest in peace and his rising be glorious.

Chris

Chris Martin - December 30, 2025 at 09:54 PM

GB

I only knew Tom through his beautiful daughter (Bonnie) Who sings his praises all the time.Wish I known this special man. Who raised a wonderful daughter, continues to praise & worship Gods. coming back

Gynith Braker - December 31, 2025 at 08:48 PM

WP

“ I met Tom when I was a freshman. Bonnie and I became good friends and did so much fun stuff with this family. I cherish those memories.
He will be missed. This is a difficult loss for the Austins, but especially keep Dottie in your prayers. Hugs.

Wendy Fitch Peters - December 30, 2025 at 09:51 PM

TW

“ I am so sorry to hear of Tom’s passing, as it will be a sad loss for all the family. He will be remembered as a man of God, always kind and willing to help someone in need. I like to think that, as his Faith has now become Sight, that he is whole and healed and in pure joy seeing Jesus face to face and laughing and smiling with loved ones and friends that have gone on before; especially my Uncle Rob, as Tom was a loyal and dear friend of his. May all the family be comforted in Christ now and in the coming days. 🙏🕊️✝️

With Sympathy,
Tim & Karen Worner



Tim - Karen Worner - December 30, 2025 at 07:52 PM

SU

“ We have known Tom and Dottie for many years as friends and fellow Christians. The last time we saw Tom was in 2023 when he came over to our house in Peoria just before we moved to Nashville. Always a pleasure to see him, he was the kindest, sweetest guy ever. And such a warrior for the Lord! Blessings on Dottie and all his family who we know will miss him so much. But he will be waiting for us in Heaven! Sincere condolences from Susan and Mark Sommars

Susan - December 30, 2025 at 07:00 PM

JD

“ I met Tom And Dottie when Tom was preaching at Limestone Reformed Presbyterian Church many years ago! My mom, Kay Doubet, stayed in touch with him throughout the years so that meant I stayed informed also. We recently became reacquainted with Bonnie because she was working where my sister ended up living for a while. Tom was always so kind and checked up on my sister frequently. He is in heaven rejoicing with his Lord. Prayers for the family.

Julie Doubet - December 30, 2025 at 05:39 PM

JW

“ I will miss Tom. I have many memories of his kindness and his always smiling face. When he traveled from Peoria to visit his Dad , my dad and I would have lunch together with them. He was an awesome cousin and he will be missed by so many folks. He left a happy wonderful impression wherever he went. He will always have a special place in my heart as his cousin. Rest in peace, dear Tom.

Judy Wineburner - December 30, 2025 at 03:58 PM