

stateside during the Korean War, manager of a Howard Johnson's in Toledo and then as sales and operations manager for a hospital food service company in Philadelphia which ignited Tom's entrepreneurial spirit. He worked long, hard, and smart to establish Whelan Food Service which he nurtured to 38 accounts over 25 years of ownership. Along with his Edu-Serve Division which specialized in school food service, the companies served "12 million meals a year, and that's a lot of peas", Tom would say. He never lost an account.

Travel was a passion. Tom and Julie visited all 50 states, all the continents and 143 countries, many more than once. They limped away from a crashed plane in the African bush, and escaped drowning when their outrigger canoe sank near Tahiti. So many wonderful times together for Tom and Julie like the romance of the Taj Mahal under the full moon on their anniversary.

There were annual Spring trips that included their six children and later their spouses, Tom (Donna), Joe (Deanna), Tim (Leeann), Pat and his wife Victoria who are deceased, Kathleen (Ron) and Barb (Dan). There are 18 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren in the Tom Whelan Family.

Tom and Julie purchased in Port Royal Plantation in 1978 when Hilton Head had one stop light and 278 was two lanes. Tom sat on the founding board of the Hilton Head Symphony and co-chaired the finance committee for building St Francis by the Sea Catholic Church.

Tom's funeral mass will be at St Francis by the Sea on Thursday, April 5, at 10:30 followed by committal of his ashes there. All of Tom and Julie's many friends are invited to a repast at Cypress Club on Thursday at 1:00. Flowers are beautiful, but donations to the Deep Well Project, are lasting (PO Box 5543, HHI 29938).



Tom Whelan

Tom Whelan's fine 90-year run ended Monday, March 26, when he slipped gently away from bone marrow cancers. Born April 24, 1928 in Chicago Heights, IL, Tom's legacy is of unwavering faith in God and himself; honest, intelligent, successful hard work; curiosity and adventure; unconditional love that was sometimes tested by children; and harmony in marriage.

Tom and Julie, husband and wife for 65 near perfect years, were a team immediately following their graduations from Cornell. Tom's path included an Army stint in Japan and then another