

## Tom Godfrey Memoriam



Tom Godfrey passed away on Nov 6, 2021.

Tom was a great man by any standard. He was highly accomplished in optics, and a great guy to boot. He made many contributions to the OSSC—as president, advisor, and notably as OSSC Historian. His bios of past presidents as OSSC historian will be appreciated for all OSSC members in the future.

He graduated with a BS in Engineering Physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1960 and came to work for Northrop Corporation in Hawthorne, California. He took Walter Wallin's Optics Classes, and courses in servomechanisms, mathematics, at UCLA. Tom worked many years at Northrop as an engineer and manager in optics and electro-optics. In 1994 Northrop Grumman was formed. Tom took an early retirement offer that December, but was back by May 1995 as an optical design, contractor which he continued to do until 2008.

He was recognized as an OSSC Fellow and later with the OSSC Lifetime Achievement award –both were well deserved.

A few quotes below from OSSC Past Presidents express his legacy.

Susan Rico: “I count my lucky stars to have known and worked so closely for so long with Tom. He left this world a better place.”

Martin Hagenbuecle: “It is not an exaggeration to say that Tom was the heart and soul of OSSC for many decades. The OSSC lifetime achievement award that he received is only a small token of how much we all appreciated him. What I personally appreciated most was Tom’s enthusiasm and joy. And it really showed when he shared some knowledge or a little gem of wisdom – with a broad smile and a sparkle in his eyes!”

Scott Rowe: “Tom was a pillar to the OSSC and a true friend and colleague for a long time. I always enjoyed listening to his ideas and questions, even when the telephone rang at the odd hour.”