



Avid Fly Fisherman and a Founding Director of Trout Unlimited



Stream Blazer

Tommy Reese

1924-2009

South Toe River, Hickory, North Carolina

Tommy was Board Chairman of Hickory Printing Group, Inc., the company started by his parents in 1917. Tommy served his country in WWII in the United States Army.

A graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, a Rotarian, and a member of St. Andrews Lutheran Church; he received the distinguished Alumnus Award from Lenoir Rhyne, Business Leader of the Year by the Lenoir Rhyne college of Business in 1998 and Outstanding Philanthropist in 2001. In 2009, Tommy received a doctorate degree in fine and applied arts from Appalachian State University.

Over the years, Tommy was very active in the community serving on many boards including three printing

industry boards, both Appalachian State University and Lenoir Rhyne University Board of Trustees, as well as the North Carolina Transportation Museum, North Carolina Aquarium Society, Natural Heritage Trust, Hickory Museum of Art, and North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

Tommy was a nationally recognized conservationist and early innovator in these practices applied in the printing industry. He was the recipient of many national awards including the William D. Schaeffer Environmental Award, John L. Kronenbert Industry Leadership Award, Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award (presented to him by George H. W. Bush), National Trout Conservationist of the Year and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Memberships for service to the printing industry included the Ben Franklin, Walter F. Soderstrom and Ash Kahn Societies. Tommy also loved golf and trains. He was very well known for his annual train calendar photography. An avid trout fly fisherman, he was a founding father of Trout Unlimited in North Carolina.

As a proponent of continued education, he established the Thomas W. Reese Graphic Arts and Imaging Technology Program at Appalachian State University. Fulfilling his commitment to conservation, the Reese Institute for the Conservation of Natural Resources was established at Lenoir Rhyne University.

