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.