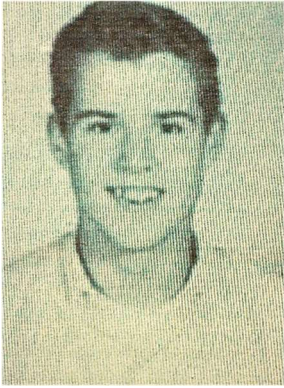


# **THOMAS LEE WAMBLE**



**USAF 1971-1978**  
**MO AIR NATIONAL GUARD 1981-2000**

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Thomas Lee Wamble was born on 18-DEC 1950 in Dexter, Missouri. Tom attended Cleveland High School in St. Louis and later went to college at St. Louis University, graduating in 1971. Tom jokes today, he will not donate to St. Louis University because only days before graduation, the university sent a letter to the draft board saying, “Tom was now eligible for the draft.” He received his draft notice the day of his graduation ceremony. Tom graduated with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Tom joined the Air Force in July 1971. He served at Blytheville Air Force Base, AR (BAFB). BAFB was a United States Air Force base from 1942, until it closed in 1992. He later served at Anderson Air Force Base in Guam as a B-52 crew chief. Tom and the crews in Guam participated in Operation Linebacker II or as they were also called “the Christmas Bombings” in 1972.

Operation Linebacker II was an aerial bombing campaign conducted by U.S. Seventh Air Force and U.S. Navy Task Force 77 against targets in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam during the final period of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. The main intent of Linebacker II was to take the war to the major cities and complexes in North Vietnam. The operation differed from previous air offensives in that it provided for continuous around-the-clock air attacks against the North Vietnamese homeland.

On Day Eleven, 29-DEC 1972 sixty B-52s attacked Hanoi’s storage facilities and what was left of the Lang Dang rail yards. While the raid was in progress, the North Vietnamese signaled the White House that they were ready to return to the Paris peace table. Before the last B-52 landed, Operation Linebacker II stood down.

The Paris Peace Accords were signed in January 1973. By April, all 591 of America’s known POWs were released. That August, with the Paris agreements seemingly being honored by Hanoi, the B-52s flew their last combat mission, and Operation Arc Light was terminated. For the Americans, the Vietnam War was finally over.

In 1974 Tom graduated from Officer’s Training School (OTS) as a distinguished graduate. His first assignment as an officer was Lowry AFB, CO, where he worked on a classified satellite program. In late 1976, Tom was transferred to Los Angeles AFS, CA working on

Global Positioning System (GPS). In 1978 Tom left the Air Force and began working at McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis MO. While at McDonnell-Douglas Tom worked on integrating GPS into the F-15 avionics system.

In 1981 Tom joined the Missouri Air National Guard in St. Louis as a Captain serving on weekends. In 1986 Tom left McDonnell-Douglas and went to work for the Missouri Air National Guard (MOANG) full time as an aircraft maintenance officer and was in charge of the unit's conversion from F-4's to F-15's. He held numerous positions in the 131 Fighter Wing (FW) during his career and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1997.

Tom retired in 2000 and began teaching high school mathematics until 2013. Tom taught at St. Charles High School and then Trinity Catholic High School in St. Louis County MO.

Tom married the former Constance Schneider in Jan 1972. They have three daughters: Teresa, Sarah, and Christine. Tom and Connie currently live in St. Charles County.