

Thomas O'Connor

January 18, 1943 - March 14, 2021

Thomas O'Connor of Charlotte, NC passed away in his home on March 14, 2021. By his side was his wife DJ; they had celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary last May.

Tom was born in 1943 in Philadelphia, PA. He was the first child of the late Thomas and Julia (nee Fagan). Tom was raised in Darby and later Lansdale, PA.

Tom was a multi-sport all-league athlete, winning 10 varsity letters at Lansdale Catholic High and winning the outstanding male athlete award both his junior and senior years. He earned a football scholarship to Villanova University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1965.

Tom was active in the community. He was past president of the Lansdale Jaycees, and coached and played for numerous sports teams in both PA and NC. He also volunteered hundreds of hours for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He worked for over 30 years at Merck & Co., in both Performance Improvement and Sales. His last role was as a District Manager in the Charlotte area. Following his retirement from Merck, he worked for several smaller pharmaceutical sales firms; where his teams were typically the national sales leaders.

In addition to his wife DJ; Tom is survived by 4 children Ellen (Jim), Tom Jr. (Linda), Caroline (Andy), and Travis (Anna) and grandchildren Casey, Caroline, and Tommy. He is also survived by his brother Gary (Laurie) and sister Suzy (Phil). He was much loved by his in-laws in Indiana and New Jersey and his presence will be greatly missed by his grand nieces and nephews. Tom was predeceased by his grandson Bobby, his brother Rick, and his first wife Eleanor.

Tom was a big man and larger than life. He had a wide circle of friends, which grew exponentially when he and DJ moved to Charlotte. He loved golfing with his closest buddies. He fought for what he believed in (literally fought), smiled at all the ladies (literally all), and had a special bond with children – who recognized that he was just another kid in a great big body. He was well traveled, but if given the choice he would head to Cape May NJ. If you met him, you'd never forget him...and he will be forever missed.

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