



Thomas VanDerhoof

October 14, 1933 - May 28, 2006

Mr. Thomas E. VanDerhoof, age 72, of Utica, passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2006 at the Masonic Care Community of NY with his family by his side. Born in Hornell NY on October 14, 1933, Tom was the son of the late Thomas W. and Martha E. (Edmond) VanDerhoof. He was raised and educated in Dansville NY. He began his collegiate studies at Colgate University and then graduated from Alfred University where he majored in history. Later, upon continuing his academic career at Cortland, he earned a Master's Degree in counseling. During his college years, Tom participated in the ROTC program and then served with the US Army as a reservist with the 414th Civil Affairs Unit. On April 11, 1959 he married the former Angela J. Zegarelli with whom he has celebrated a 47-year union. Throughout their marriage, Tom and Angela shared a mutual devotion which truly graced their years together. In addition, the blessing of children and the joy of their family life enhanced their lives. He was never happier than when he was enjoying the affection, warmth, and company of his family, especially when they were gathered for the celebration of traditional events.

Mr. VanDerhoof spent his professional life serving the community, especially its children in the Utica City School District as a teacher of history and science as well as a professional social worker. Tom was appointed to the perfect position as a counselor working at Utica Free Academy where he offered his service to students for many years until ill health necessitated his retirement. The many who were the recipients of Mr. VanDerhoof's unique and

understanding brand of wisdom and guidance will always remember him and will appreciate the genuine concern that he had for each of them. Tom also was active with the teachers' union, serving his colleagues and his community with honor and integrity as a union representative and a contract negotiator. For Tom, the most significant and meaningful achievements of his life were: his commitment to his chosen profession of teacher and counselor; his ability to share his knowledge with others, especially in the field of history; his influential, inspiring, and devoted relationships with the students he mentored; and his service to his fellow teachers through his work with the union.

Teaching, advising, negotiating—"That was what Tom was."

Tom was an astute gentleman and an engaging conversationalist. He loved animals, adventure, and nature, the latter an appreciation he passed on to his daughter, Becky. When his health declined, he was steadfast and optimistic in the face of adversity and illness, as well as disciplined and fastidious in dealing with his situation and his own care. In fact, it was his faith in himself and his belief in his own strength that were major factors in his ability to valiantly carry on the struggle and to never give up.

In his leisure time, Tom was an avid reader whose interests covered a wide and diverse range of subjects. A knowledgeable gardener and a meticulous landscaper, he also loved to tend his yard and garden. Mr. VanDerhoof was a valued member of many professional, civic, and charitable organizations, including the following: the NYS United Teachers' Retired Assn.; the Utica Teachers Assn.; the National Education Assn.; Utica Lodge # 49 F.A.&M., Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Utica; the Ziyara Temple of the Shriners where he was a member of the Drum and Bugle Corps; and the Board of Managers of Faxton Hospital. A member of Grace Episcopal Church, Tom served the parish community with great devotion as an usher and at one time as a church trustee.

Mr. VanDerhoof is survived by his wife Angela; his children, Major Thomas Scott VanDerhoof U.S.A.F. and his wife, Jann, of San Antonio TX, Rebecca A. VanDerhoof of Utica, and Heidi VanDerhoof Fonner and Michael Coluzza of

Utica; and two grandchildren, Matthew Vincent Fonner and Emma Jo Fonner. He is also survived by a sister and brother-in-law, Gretchen and Donald Slate of Scotia NY; a number of nieces and nephews, especially acknowledging Anna and Rick Gargiulo; his cousins; his in-laws, the members of the Zegarelli and Arcuri families; and his very special and very loyal friends, Michael and Russell Humphrey who visited him frequently and faithfully throughout his illness. He was predeceased by his in-laws, Vincent and Josephine Zegarelli. The family offers its heartfelt gratitude to Tom's primary physician, Dr. Thomas Spath for his professional service and his personal friendship, as well as to the many caregivers in the medical and nursing professions throughout the greater Utica area who tended to and enhanced Tom's quality of life during the 18 years of his illness, especially the personnel of the Albany Unit of the Masonic Care Community of NY.

Visitation will be held today (Wednesday) from 4-7 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. At 6:30 this evening the members of Utica Lodge # 47 of the F.A.& M. will assemble for ritualistic services. By family request, please omit floral offerings. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial offerings in Tom's honor to the Children's Services of the ARC, Oneida and Lewis Counties Chapter in gratitude for the services that this outstanding organization has provided for his grandson, Matthew; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Mr. VanDerhoof's funeral services which will be conducted with Military Honors on Thursday morning at 11:00 at Grace Episcopal Church. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Previous Events

Service

JUN 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Episcopal Church
6 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall



“ Angela,

We were so sorry to hear about your loss. Please know that you and your family are in our prayers and thoughts.##imported-begin##Joe Rich & Cindy FitzPatrick##imported-end##

June 02, 2006 at 10:49 AM



“ Tom was a man of honor who will always be remembered. Angela and family I am sorry for your loss. Tom always stopped and said hello and I was very appreciative of that. My prayers go with you. Although I didn't have him as an educator, Angela I was in your home room at T.R. Proctor when you were just beginning your teaching career. God will give you strength and guide you through this difficult time.##imported-begin##David V. (Lee) Lia##imported-end##

May 31, 2006 at 07:45 PM



“ Dear Angela, I have just learned of Tom's death. Please accept our deepest sympathy. We know he had been ill for so long. Now he is at peace and I hope you find some too. Pat and Alan Cobb,##imported-begin##Patricia Cobb##imported-end##

May 31, 2006 at 04:31 PM



“ Dear Angela, Heidi and Becky,

I have retired and moved to San Antonio and was saddened to read on the OD web site of Tom's passing.

I so admired you all for the constant love and concern you so freely gave to Tom. His every need was met by each of you and the dignity which you all gave him was a testimony to the marvelous family you created together. I know you will feel the loss of his physical presence in the days to come but the fact that his earthly suffering is over and he is up and on his way to touch the face of God! is a great reward for a life well lived. I pray the Lord Jesus wraps His arms around you all and holds you tight in His Healing arms in the days and nights ahead. On the last visit to the office when I was there, he gave me a kiss when I went into the waiting room to talk to him. He was a good and gentle man. I'm glad I had the pleasure of knowing him and you and Heidi and Becky.

Know you will be in my prayers.

Blessings

Fran###imported-begin###Fran Kelly / Dr Spaths office###imported-end##

May 31, 2006 at 03:56 PM



“ To the family of Mr. Thomas VanDerhoof - I would like to extend my sincere sympathy on his passing. While I never knew any of his family, I had the good fortune to be one of his students at UFA. My most vivid memory of Mr. V was sitting in his classroom when the news came in that President Kennedy had been shot. I remember the shock on his face when he was told the news by another teacher who came in during class. I remember the tears he shed as he passed on this horrible news to us. And then I remember how he showed us a quiet strength as he composed himself and dismissed us for the day. All our lives changed that day - we were suddenly thrust from innocent childhood to the sometimes cruel adult world. I still remember his strength and conviction and character and feel fortunate that he touched my educational life. May he rest in a well deserved peace.##imported-begin##Joanne Pacilio Worrall San Diego, CA##imported-end##

May 31, 2006 at 01:51 PM



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May 31, 2006 at 01:51 PM



“ *Angela - my heart goes out to you - its been a long journey for you - and you took every step so eloquently - you and your family are in our prayers.*

*Sincerely,
Joyce and Chuck Showalter###imported-begin##Joyce & Chuck
Showalter###imported-end##*

May 31, 2006 at 01:41 PM



“ *Dear Angela,
We are sorry to learn about Tom's death. We know what a long, emotional and painful process his illness was and we salute you for the courage and love with which you both faced it.
We are thinking of you eventhough we are many miles away in Florida.*

*Maria and Richard Dardano###imported-begin##Maria and Richard
Dardano###imported-end##*

May 31, 2006 at 10:52 AM



“ *I am very sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you.###imported-begin##Tamara Flynn###imported-end##*

May 31, 2006 at 08:43 AM



“ Dear Angela and Family.....

Our deepest sympathy to you on your loss. Tom was a joy to know, and it was a blessing to see how much he loved you, Angela, and his children.

May God comfort you all and surround you with His love.....

Tom and Rose Hajdasz###imported-begin##Tom and Rose Hajdasz, Leominster, MA###imported-end##

May 31, 2006 at 01:50 AM



“ Angela, Heidi and Becky,

I'm so sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers are with you. Tom kept us on our toes and the floor is not the same without him. The entire staff sends their condolences and even the other residents on the unit who never even met Tom felt bad to hear of his passing. We will never forget Tom but we know he is in a better place. Take care of yourselves. Lisa###imported-begin##Lisa Ashton###imported-end##

May 30, 2006 at 06:09 PM