



Thomas "Tom" Urbaniak

December 28, 1941 - January 28, 2022

Tom Urbaniak, age 80, passed away Friday, January 28, 2022 at his home in Holland. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Christine; daughter, Kelly, of Grand Rapids; son, Bradley and (Jennifer) of Orlando, Florida; grandchildren: Colbie, Gretchen, and Dash; sister, MaryAnn Conner and (Ed Cardonick); nieces, Joanne Conner and (Ramel Toledo), Laurie Conner and (Scott Geyer); and grand nephews, Alex and Liam. Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan. After high school, Tom attended the University of Michigan, but left school after his father's death and enlisted in the Marines for a 3-year duty. That gave him the time to decide what he wanted to do with his life. He returned to the Detroit area and earned a B.S. degree in psychology from Wayne State University. He worked long hours in the summer at Ford Motor Company to help pay for his education. He then moved to East Lansing to attend Michigan State University, and worked there as a graduate assistant while earning his MBA, and it is also where he met his future wife, Chris VanStatt. They married within the year and started their adventure together by moving to the San Francisco, California area on May 1, 1970 with a new car and their wedding gifts. Tom took a position at Bell Telephone as manager of a directory assistance office and then Hewlett Packard in human resources. Their family grew, and they realized they wanted to be near family back in Michigan. So, they packed up their two children, two cars, a full moving van, and headed back to arrive May 1, 1978 (exactly 8 years from the start of their adventure). Tom continued his career in human resources with Herman Miller, S2 Yachts and ended it with 21

years at Haworth. But Tom was much more than his career. He was always heavily involved in the community. He took the Leadership Holland training as an introduction to involvement options. He was a Mediator for Mediation Services for several years. They joined First Presbyterian Church, where he lead many financial and building campaigns, served as an Elder and on the Personnel Council and Outreach Council as the liaison for Out On The Lakeshore. He was passionate about recycling and began a program so the church could be a gathering point for light bulbs, batteries, Styrofoam, and a one-time collection where the community could bring electronics to recycle, and a semi-truck was filled. Tom was a confident speaker. He led Toastmasters, was often the emcee at Haworth retirement parties, and joined Holland Community Theatre where he performed in 22 plays in 21 years. He acted in musicals and dramas, but his great love was comedy. After deciding he was tired of memorizing scripts, he opted to join ReActors at Evergreen Commons where he could perform with a group of like-minded seniors and still enjoy the thrill of being on stage, even writing some of their skits. Tom's witty demeanor kept friends and family entertained, and his story telling was always interesting. He wrote stories for the HASP Review. He loved the arts: theater, music, museums, and galleries. He loved history and read avidly. They loved to travel, especially with friends, and were able to explore Greece, France, Germany, Mexico, China, Ireland and other countries. His memorial service will be held at the Outdoor Discovery Center at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2022. There is some seating available, but feel free to bring a lawn chair. Donations can be made in Tom's name to the Memorial Fund at First Presbyterian Church, 659 State Street, Holland MI 49423 and to Out On The Lakeshore, 451 Columbia Ave., Holland MI 49423. www.langelandsterenberg.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

Outdoor Discovery Center
4214 56th St.
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ Thomas "Tom" Urbaniak

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ "I admired Tom while we were classmates at Fordson High School. He was one of our top students and everybody looked up to him. We knew in high school that his leadership skills as Vice President of our class would make him successful in life. I was anxious to reconnect with him this fall for our 62nd class reunion. - John Guerrieri"

John Guerrieri - February 14, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ " I have many fond memories of visiting Tom and his family in Holland, and having them visit our family in Jackson. His smile, sense of humor and laugh will be missed. Condolences to Chris and his family."

Christopher Tuckey - February 14, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ "Tom and I served together in the Marines both in California and in Asia. We spent many nights aboard ship, in the field, and at clubs talking for hours we had all the answers for the many problems the world faced (LOL) while having no clue where we would fit in. After we both finished our enlistment, we learned of the combat death of many of our friends we served with. Tom was motivated by these deaths to make his life count; his life efforts were concentrated on family, friends, community, and church. I love you, Tom; Semper Fi."

John Wassel - February 06, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LH

“After more than 40 years as neighbors who became family friends, it is difficult to grasp this new reality. So many fond memories of shared experiences! You and your family will forever be a treasured part of my life journey. Thanks for the memories!”

Lindell Herrick - February 06, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DL

“Tom you will be missed. .Many fond memories from your years at Haworth. Always a good sport, sincerely the "Market Band" Doug Van Lente”

Doug Van Lente - February 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

EH

“As a co worker I admired Tom's character and humor and I'll always remember his quick wit.”

Ed Helder - February 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“Tom was a wonderful coworker at both Herman Miller and Haworth. I will always remember his sense of humor and razor sharp wit He will be missed”

A - February 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CH

“We will always treasure our many trips to Holland; sharing a dinner out and followed by an Oscar winning performance by Tom. Bravo Tom! You were a man of many fine qualities! May your thespian adventures continue in Heaven. You will be so missed by your Best Buddies in Brighton, Mi. God Bless you all!”

Cheryl Larry Ryan Marc Hassell - February 03, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *"I'm so sad when I remember I will not see that mischievous smile or hear another "story" told by Tom again."*

Sheila Bell - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ *"I worked with Tom for several years at Herman Miller. One of the good guys that could always bring a smile. I am sorry for your loss."*

Nancy Honor - February 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM