



Thomas P. O'Connor

February 15, 1945 - August 11, 2024

Wilbraham - Thomas P. O'Connor died on August 11, 2024 at Baystate Medical Center. Thomas was born on February 15, 1945 and was a lifelong resident of Wilbraham, Massachusetts where he was a partner in the family business, O'Connors Goodyear Service Center on Boston Road in Wilbraham. After graduating from Cathedral High School in 1963 he served in the Army National Guard. When not working, Tom enjoyed restoring and driving a variety of cars with a focus on Hot Rods and Corvettes. Tom wouldn't miss a chance to go to a car or an air show whenever he travelled. He also went to Barrett Jackson car Auctions to admire the many finely restored automobiles. During his forties Tom worked for American Airlines Operations at Bradley Field in Connecticut. While in his twenties, inspired by his childhood television hero, "Sky King", Tom's sights were set on flying. He earned an instrument rated pilot's license at Barnes Airport in Westfield and subsequently purchased a Cessna 172. He took many trips to the islands surrounding Massachusetts and Connecticut and any and every airport that could be a day trip. Flights down the Hudson and around the Statue of Liberty were always a highlight for guests as was a flight to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where the Wright brothers had the first flight. He also flew to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the annual Experimental Aircraft Show. Tom was an active member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). Tom was always eager to travel taking ocean cruises and tours in the U.S., Canada, Europe and often went to Leahill, County Cork, Ireland to visit his aunt Kathleen. Tom proudly obtained

an Irish passport because of his Irish ancestry. Tom liked sun, surf and escapes to his Florida apartment once lymphoma in 2012 curtailed his ability to work. The family is grateful to Dr. Dennis Cooper at Yale/Smilow Hospital for treating him through three remissions. Thomas P. O'Connor leaves behind his wife Evelyn Goss, his son, Anthony Maspo and wife, Laura of Holyoke and his grandsons Joe and Jack, all of whom he was very proud. He also leaves his sister, Kathleen Larkin of Scottsdale, Arizona, brother, Kevin O'Connor and his wife, Marie; two sisters-in-law, Patricia O'Connor and Beverly Adamick, his cousin, Nancy Parent and nieces and nephews. Tom was predeceased by his brother, Terrence O'Connor and sister, Marylou O'Connor. From his youth Tom was blessed with friends, Paul Murray and Robert Eaton and a friend he hoped to meet up with on the other side, Jack Mayer. Whenever Tom's family and friends look up at the sky, I hope that they will picture Tom flying above and at peace. All services will be private. New England Funeral & Cremation Center, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit Tom's memorial page at www.nefcc.net for expressions of sympathy.

Tribute Wall

MD

“ Tommy, so many memories of our early twenties, hanging out with Vinnie Blanchard, Frank Faulkner, Steve Van Meter, Dennis Conti, etc. How we ever survived, I am not sure. The good times at the 418, or hanging out at the garage with you. The story was when you were getting your pilots license, you didn't know your left from your right, so you marked it on your gloves. You were part of our wedding party and eventually we lost touch. As the years have passed we have had to say goodbye to Dennis, Frank, and now you.

Don and Marcia DAmario

marcia damario - September 10, 2024 at 01:23 PM

BM

“ Oh Tommy, the fun we had. My best friend from about age 12, in an era when the police took you home, rather than to jail. Thank heaven aye Tommy?? He was a hard working, fun loving pal that was crushed by the loss of his dad. It turned the family upside down. With his mom, a younger brother and young sisters at home, work at the garage launched Terry and Tom into early adulthood. And they worked so hard. But it didn't stop Tom from indulging in making really fast hot rods, and then really, really fast mustangs and vettes. On so many occasions the angels were riding with him. I get scared thinking about it all these years later. But at an early age, Tom so wisely realized that life could be punishing enough without the hardships brought on by drinking, and he never drank again. In a quiet way he was so smart and so tough. During Vietnam, after I had quit college Tom called to tell me he had just signed up for the army reserve, and there were only three more openings. So off we went to basic training, and then six years of meetings, summer camps and growing up together. Along the way, my job took me to the other end of the state. Our lives moved on and we saw each other less often, and then rarely. It is so regrettable how we let that happen. But looking back, the friendship we had was such an important part of my life. And for all these decades I have never thought of Tommy without a smile and some times a belly laugh. What a great guy,

Barry Murphy

Barry Murphy - August 22, 2024 at 10:11 AM

BR

“ Tom and I started at American Airlines on the same day many years ago and immediately became friends. Tom was like a big brother to me. We carpoled together back in the early 90's and I always looked forward to the ride. I knew I would be laughing the whole time at his Irish humor and all the stories from his youth. He would also offer sage advice whenever I needed it.

I met Tom for lunch on several occasions over the last few years and was happy to see he hadn't changed. He had that same hearty laugh that I used to hear in the break room at work. I'm really going to miss Tom. Rest in peace. You have earned it. I look forward to seeing you again, my friend.

Brendan

Brendan - August 20, 2024 at 03:07 PM

DC

I worked with Tom at American Airlines for two decades. Tom was a very funny individual that always made me laugh and bring a smile to my face. After I retired from American Airlines I would continue to meet Tom for lunch with other retirees. I considered Tom a very good friend and I will miss him greatly. Rest in peace brother.

Dave C. - August 22, 2024 at 02:42 PM

BG

“ To the O'Connor family condolences. Tom was a great friend and a great human. He will be sorely missed by all that knew him. Will miss you at Tuesday coffee. Keep flyin. Bob and Kay gagnier

bob gagnier - August 20, 2024 at 11:01 AM

EJ

“ I am Tom's cousin and have shared a great interest in our family history. In 2000, my brother and I visited with Tom and Evelyn at their home in Wilbraham where we were treated to a nice lunch followed by an interesting discussion about our common history. It was the only time we met in person, more's the pity. For a while we did stay in contact but over these past several years we did not stay in touch which is regrettable. I hope that Tom's family will find comfort and support in the happy memories they lived together. I also hope and pray that cousin Tom will rest in peace.

Edward O'Connor Jr - August 20, 2024 at 09:08 AM