



Thomas Frank Denek

February 2, 1943 - August 13, 2020

DENEK, Thomas F. "Papa" August 13, 2020. Age 77. Beloved father of Kimberly, Sheryl (Michael) Durecki, and Thomas (Amanda). Proud and adored grandfather of Stephanie (Travis) and Joshua. Dear brother of Stanley, Connie (the late Dick) Connell, Mary (Robert) Spix, Sandra (Tom) O'Hara. Treasured uncle of many nieces and nephews, especially his nephew Christophe, with whom he shared a significant, meaningful, and loving relationship with.

Papa was a friend to all, mentor to many, and never passed up an opportunity to share his giant heart.

"Country Strong", "A Man's Man", a true "American Patriot" and, "determined to the end" are just a few descriptions of his soul, a man of solid character and unblemished integrity. Papa defied all of his doctors prognoses and lived his last days on his terms.

Papa was also known as "Santa" from November to January, "Coach" to his players, "Turkey Man" to his church's Thanksgiving food drive, and the "World's Most Interesting Man" to the Dos Equis guy. His passions included loving his family and skillfully operating his Bobcat Excavator with Chuck Norris-type precision.

Papa was surrounded by his loved ones who played his favorite Christmas carols while he peacefully passed on to his eternal life with Jesus.

Dad, Brother, Papa, Pops, you will be missed but your legacy of selfless giving will be honored and carried forward by all that you inspired. We love you.

Visitation Thursday, August 20th, from 3-9pm & Friday, August 21st, from 1-9pm with a 6pm Rosary Service & Sharing of Memories at Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc., (Shelby) 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile Rd. Funeral Saturday, August 22nd, Instate 9:30am until time of 10am Mass at St. Mary Queen of Creation Catholic Church, 50931 Maria St., New Baltimore, MI 48047.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are appreciated to the Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF c/o 1235 N. Main St. Suite 130 Rochester, MI. 48307)

Interment, Resurrection Cemetery. Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at WujekCalcaterra.com

****Please be advised that in observance of the governmental order from the State of Michigan we kindly ask, for the safety and well-being of the families we serve, that everyone practice social distancing and wear a mask****

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **20.** 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Visitation

AUG **21.** 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Instate

AUG **22.** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Queen of Creation
50931 Maria
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Funeral Mass

AUG **22.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Queen of Creation
50931 Maria
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Tribute Wall

KD

“ *Daddy,
It's been over three years now since you went to Heaven and my heart hurts the same as the day you passed. It's the Christmas season and I am going to try and carry on with decorating and celebrating as we once use to. I know that you welcomed your brother at the gates of Heaven. Uncle Stan being there with you makes me feel alittle better that you are not alone. I know Grandma & Grandpa are there too but at least you have a sibling. I love and miss you always and cannot wait to see you again. Please continue to pray for all of us*

*Love you Daddy,
xoxox*

Kimberly Ann Denek - November 08, 2023 at 10:43 AM

KD

“ *Dad,

Everyone says as time goes on it gets easier. Well I beg to differ. There is such a whole in my heart without you here on Earth. I know that you are pain free and at peace and that does give me some peace. But I miss my rock and my best friend. Your two year anniversary into Heaven just passed and I cannot believe its been that long already. Cannot wait to be with you again.
Give my love to all our love ones in Heaven for me please.*

your Kimmie xoxox

Kimberly Denek - August 19, 2022 at 09:35 AM

KD

“ *Dad, Papa, best friend.....just want to let you know that you are missed dearly. You are always on our mind.*

We know you are in heaven helping God with construction. Please hug all our family that is with you in Heaven.

*Dearest love from Kim, Tommy, Sheryl
xoxoxo*

Kimberly Denek - May 06, 2021 at 10:55 AM

MO

“ My uncle Tom was always the fun one at family parties - telling a joke, cracking up, encouraging us to lighten up and enjoy each other. It's hard to believe he is gone, and he will be deeply missed.

One of my favorite memories was about ten years ago when Uncle Tom and I figured out that the the very first project he led as a general contractor in the 1960s in Pontiac was also the first building that the architecture firm I work for designed and built. I remember Uncle Tom cracking up telling me, "Those crazy architects from Pittsburgh told me my concrete walls weren't 'friendly' enough."

My heart goes out with deepest condolences to Kim, Sheryl, and Tommy on the loss of your dad, to Stephanie and Josh on the loss of your Papa, to Tom's whole family and all of his close friends.

With love, Megan

Megan O'Hara - August 22, 2020 at 10:59 PM



“ Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Thomas Frank Denek.



August 20, 2020 at 09:40 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Frank Denek.



August 19, 2020 at 11:42 AM

DC

“ Dear Tom ‘Terrific’ as known to me and my family. You appeared in the roar of a heavy trunk pulling what you called the “Mama” excavator in the early 80’s. You were the sub contractor to do the foundation for an addition to the old gas station and Ryder truck rental I’d purchased to convert to a flower shop. You were never at a loss for words and had a story for everything. Tom, the manly, man’s man was rather intimidating and overbearing at our first meeting. Through the years Tom became a confidant and the best Jack of all trades ever at our home and the flower shop. So many times you were the one able to rescue us in any taxing occurrence. A most fond memory is you helping make corsages for a prom with those big hands and fingers. And, we all fondly remember you as Santa Claus. A favorite framed Christmas picture is you as Santa, my son, daughter in law, me, and grandkids a couple years after my Husband passed away. My husband, Rick passed away August 13, 2005. And, you my long time, wonderful, adorable friend; passed 15 years later on the same day! Your old truck is still here at my house. You came as often as possible to work on it and visit. You will always be in my heart. God bless your family.

Dimple Correa - August 18, 2020 at 08:33 PM

MS

“ I remember you always visited me when I was a child in the hospital. My mouth was bandaged but that didn't stop you from making me laugh and cheering me up. I learned a new way to laugh without splitting my stitches. I always loved your sense of humor. I am sure you have them all laughing in heaven. You will be missed.

Mary spix - August 18, 2020 at 04:52 PM

CW

“ Conequip Parts Family - Chris Wojcik purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Thomas Frank Denek.



Conequip Parts Family - Chris Wojcik - August 18, 2020 at 09:51 AM

JK

“ Last one:)

On 4/20/68, Tom was a groomsman in Jeannie and my wedding. Without asking him, he made a 'zillion' paper carnations and stuck them on a bunch of cars... Tom is like that you know...doing nice things without being asked; One more special thing that I want to share, probably the most special event of all. 5) Shortly after our marriage, Jeannie and I moved to Mansfield, Ohio which is on the "pathway" to Canton, Ohio, the home of the Pro-football Hall of Fame. Well....one day...don't remember when it was...except Kimmie, Sherrie, and Tommy were all little people....Tom called and wanted to visit... I was excited ...we visited... and what a terrific visit it was ... three wonderful children...a dad who knew that he had three wonderful children and showed it. I thought I was the only one that remembered until Kimmie told me in a terrific recent phone call about her memories about fireflies and other stuff...THANKS KIMMIE! That visit created an opportunity for the next stage of my relationship with Tom. Annual Christmas Cards, almost annual telephone calls were routine with updates of kid stuff...I loved it ...we created long distance memories of our developing, growing families.

Tom, my friend...my forever friend...thanks for continuing to be a part of my life... please look in on mom and dad from time to time...and save a piece of kielbasa for me...I love you man!

Jim Kulig - August 17, 2020 at 05:32 PM

JK

“ Continued (2)

Four years after our High School graduation, I moved back to Detroit. Tom and I, at the request of my parents, worked together to create a recreation room in my parent's basement. What great fun we had. I did, at least. Tom probably spent most of his time correcting my mistakes. But, working together (me...learning a bunch...Tom was a great teacher) talking about everthing twenty year olds talk about, and eating lots of salami sandwiches and other stuff my good polish cook mother would abundantly prepare was a very special time for me and our relationship...brothers we had become. My parents loved Tom by the way...from the moment that they first met him they enjoyed him...accepted him...it wasn't that way for most of my friends. My mom died on 2/9 of this year...20 days short of her 100th birthday. We talked about many persons and places during this past year...she remembered very clearly the basement remodeling adventure and the many laughs and meals that were shared along the way. I wouldn't be surprised if mom and dad haven't already tracked Tom down(Mom, at least, I'm not sure that dad is residing in the same place...sorry dad). On this Sunday, they may be sitting down to one of mom's wonderful special Sunday polish meals...I am sure all the Denek's would be invited;

Jim Kulig - August 17, 2020 at 05:30 PM

JK

“ Continued

I especially remember: 1) While in High School, Tom introducing me to Buddy's Pizza (which was nowhere to be found on Detroit's westside) and the best place to have discussions about all the things teenagers have discussions about without, I might add, the interference of any electronic devices; 2) After High School, while on summer break from school, Tom invited me to work with him on a roofing job. This was a three story, complicated hip roof job. Tom pointed to the pile of shingles stacked neatly on the driveway. Promptly threw (easily) two bundles on his shoulders and proceeded to quickly climb the three stories without breaking a sweat. Motioning me to do the same...I slowly got one bundle up on my shoulder...never got the second bundle up...with knees shaking made it up to the roof drenched in sweat...survived the day with great appreciation for Tom's strength, skill, perseverance, patience and gratitude for the support he provided for a struggling friend. By the way, he never asked me to do another roofing job with him;

Jim Kulig - August 17, 2020 at 05:28 PM

JK

“ Tom is my friend! How fortunate I am. We have been friends since the Fall of 1957 when we entered the University of Detroit High School as fourteen year old freshman. Fr. George Tolbert's Latin Class is where we made our connection...I don't know exactly what it was ...maybe it was because and West-side of Detroit kid had a Grandpa and Grandma Kulig that lived on the corner of Mitchell and Outer Drive (not far from the Denek family home)...maybe it was because neither of us was among the biggest kids in our freshman class ...however, what we lacked in size we made up for in spirit ...I guess it really doesn't matter ...we just clicked and we clicked for sixty-three years...so far...with more to come. Our relationship was unique because we didn't physically see each other all that often, but our contacts were always special.

Jim Kulig - August 17, 2020 at 05:27 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Frank Denek.



August 17, 2020 at 11:44 AM

SO

“ Rest in Peace my brother Tom. Your love and loyalty to your children and grandchildren was always palpable. I appreciated your sense of humor throughout all situations. As a much younger sister of yours you once included me in a trip to Dairy Queen with you and your young children. I had never known there was such a wonderful place! I appreciated the hugs whenever we saw each other as adults. I am following in your footsteps and having another joint replaced this week. I will miss saying goodbye at mass. I will visit your gravesite when I can and spend some time with you there.
May the angels lead you into paradise this day.
Love, Sandy

Sandra OHara - August 16, 2020 at 05:24 PM

CZ

“ My Uncle Tom will always be known as an incredible individual. A loving and nurturing dad to Kimmy, Sheryl, and Tommy, a tireless worker who was always ready to get his hands dirty, and a generous giver of his time and resources. Uncle Tom really loved the people around him. I'll remember him as the understanding, funny, and gentle person that he was. I feel very lucky to have had such a close connection with my Uncle Tom. This photo from a family Christmas party in the mid-1980s encompasses our solid foundation of mutual understanding. I'm sure 5 year old me is six kiddie egg-nogs deep at this point, as seen by the level of wild in my eyes. I love this photo because it shows we both knew how to play and get along. My Uncle Tom was fun. I'll always remember that. I love him so much and he will be dearly missed. - Christophe



Christophe Zajac-Denek - August 16, 2020 at 01:44 PM

HW

“ So happy in My life i knew Tom. Harry {Warhoop} Warholak

Harry Warholak - August 16, 2020 at 05:51 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Frank Denek.



August 15, 2020 at 12:38 PM

LG

“ *My Uncle Tom was always my favorite Uncle. He had lots of back issues and when I was younger he would get me to rub his shoulders and back. He said I could def get paid good bucks to do that. He always had a smile and witty comeback for you. He liked to tease. He was so proud of his kids and grands he would light up like a Christmas tree when asked about them. His work ethic was one to behold as proven by his being on his rigs just days ago. He was a stubborn old goat and when you got him and my dad together there was trouble to be had. Lol. He loved to dance and at weddings and parties he was dancing with all the pretty girls! Uncle Tom I will miss you, your smile when you saw me coming and your witty comments. Rest easy now and good for you doing it your way! God bless and keep you now in His tender care! I will always love you.*
Laura (Dreger) Grose

Laura (Dreger) Grose - August 14, 2020 at 11:40 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Frank Denek.*



August 14, 2020 at 09:01 PM