



Thomas Joseph Esser

November 14, 1962 - May 2, 2025

ESSER, THOMAS JOSEPH. Devoted husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away on Friday, May 2, 2025 at the age of 62 with his loving family by his side.

Tom was born on November 14, 1962 to Frank and Elizabeth Esser, the sixth of eight children. He grew up in Fraser, Michigan, and met his future wife, Anne Ventimiglio, at Kennedy Junior High School. After graduating from Fraser High School in 1980, Tom and Anne attended Michigan State University, where their love story began. They married on August 29, 1987. Together they raised two daughters, Chelsey and Jessica. A true family man, Tom's wife and daughters were the light of his life.

Tom will be remembered for his warm smile and easy laugh. As a gifted communicator, true peacemaker, and cherished friend, Tom had an unmatched talent for making everyone around him feel special and valued. In his spare time, Tom enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family. He was an avid sports fan who could often be found cheering on his beloved Michigan State Spartans and Detroit sports teams. He was a fun-loving extrovert who delighted in a great round of golf, a nice glass of red wine, and a good conversation. As such, Tom could often be found behind his bar at family gatherings, serving up drinks, jokes, and hospitality.

Tom enjoyed a career as Vice President and Head of Global Ford Sales at Denso International America. In this role, he was able to travel to Japan, India, Germany, and around the world.

Tom is survived by his wife Anne, his daughters Chelsey and Jessica (Jacob) Breese; his siblings Chuck (Debbie), Leanne (Paul) Harker, Geralyn Nash, Tim (Linda), Frank (Victoria), and Liza (Gary); his in laws; Angela Ventimiglio (the late Joseph), JoAnn Hollowell (Ken), Maryfaye Ventimiglio, and many nieces, nephews, and friends. Tom was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Cathy. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

The family is grateful to Hospice of Michigan for their loving care of Tom during his final days. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tom's memory to The Chondrosarcoma Foundation <https://csfshayna.org/donate-to-chondrosarcoma-foundation/> or Hospice of Michigan <https://www.hom.org/donate/>.

Visitation Monday 3-9pm with 7:00pm Sharing of Memories at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile Rd. (SHELBY TOWNSHIP).
Funeral Tuesday Instate 9:30m at St. Isidore Church 18201 Romeo Plank at 23 Mile Rd. until time of Mass at 10:00am. Internment Resurrection Cemetery.
Share memories with the family at their "On Line Guest Book" @
WujekCalcaterra.com

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Sharing of Memories

MAY 5. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Instate / Funeral Mass

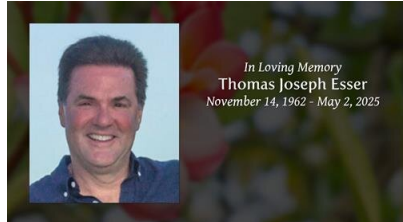
MAY 6. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Isidore Catholic Church
18201 23 Mile Road
Macomb, MI 48042

Tribute Wall



“ *Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Joseph Esser*



Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. - May 05, 2025 at 09:57 AM



“ *Harry Maruyama*

I offer my deepest condolences from the bottom of my heart. I will never forget his smile, his voice, his kindness and everything which he gave me during the journey of our lives together. Tom was a great man.

May he rest in peace.



Haruya Maruyama - May 17, 2025 at 06:46 AM

AR

“ Alison and I are sending our love and deepest sympathies to Anne, Chelsey and Jessica. We are so sorry for your loss. Tom and I worked together at DENSO for more than 25 years sharing great experiences and building a global business and personal relationships with Ford Motor Company. As a memory of that relationship I’m posting a picture of us with Anne and my wife Alison along with Bill Ford, his wife, and Alan Mulally, former CEO of Ford.

Also, just to show it wasn’t “all work and no play” there’s a picture of Tom (holding us all up!) after a charity golf event in aid of the Rhonda Walker Foundation - Rhonda’s on the top of course 😊
Aron and Alison Rolle



Aron Rolle - May 08, 2025 at 11:05 AM

LB

“ I worked with Tom during my time in DENSO. He was a kind caring guy that would light up any room, he had a great sense of humour. He will be missed. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.



Lloyd Broughton - May 08, 2025 at 10:18 AM

WE

“ Tom was my Godson. He would drop in and see me at work when he was a young engineer. So sorry to hear of his passing.
Walter Esser

walter Esser - May 06, 2025 at 02:44 PM

NT

“ I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR OF TOMMY'S PASSING .. SUCH A GREAT PERSON AND FRIEND TO MY BROTHER JEFF OPBERTYNIUK.. PRAYERS TO YOU ANNIE AND YOUR CHILDREN.. GOD BLESS YOU ALL IN THES EHARD TIMES!! MAY YOUR MEMEROIES HELP YOU GET THRU THIS...

NATALIE TROMBLEY/OBERTYNIUK - May 06, 2025 at 01:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



May 06, 2025 at 12:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Joseph Esser.

May 06, 2025 at 12:30 PM

KI

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Tom. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.

One of the most unforgettable experiences I shared with Tom was our joint effort to secure the FORD program. It was a true test of teamwork and perseverance, bringing together Sales, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Quality in a way that I had never seen before. Tom played a pivotal role—not only through their expertise, but through their ability to unite people, inspire trust, and keep us moving forward even in the most challenging moments. That achievement was more than just a professional milestone—it was a testament to Tom’s character, leadership, and unwavering dedication. I will always carry that memory with deep respect and gratitude.

With deepest sympathy,
Kimio Tsuchita, Taylor Kondo, Neko Takayanagi, Moto Taguchi and Ben Ito

Katsunori Ito - May 06, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ I worked with Tom for nearly 28 years, 19 years he was my manager after a mentor and always a friend. I will remember Tom as a kind and always putting his team before himself. So it is with great sadness that I say that world lost some kindness today. But if all practice in the coming days to be a bit more kind to others a bit more selfless then we can make the world a little bit better. I will miss you Tom.

Sincerely
Richard Snow

Richard Snow - May 06, 2025 at 09:21 AM



“ I worked with Tom for nearly 28 years, for 10 he was my manager and after that a mentor. I will remember Tom as a kind colleague and friend that would always seem to put those on his team before himself. So it is with sadness that I say the world lost a bit of kindness and selflessness today. But if we all practice in the coming days to be a bit more kind to one another and practice a bit of putting others before oneself then we can attempt to make the world a bit better. You will missed Tom.

Sincerely,
Richard Snow



Richard Snow - May 06, 2025 at 09:17 AM

JR

“ While I am filled with sorrow, my heart and memories are that of happiness and gratitude in having Tom as a true friend. He was actually my first friend at MSU and our friendship turned to brotherhood. I have so many fun, great and crazy memories. My deepest sympathies to Annie, Chelsey and Jessica. Our hearts are with you,
Jim and Cathy Reinhart

James Reinhart - May 05, 2025 at 10:46 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.*



May 05, 2025 at 01:04 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.*



May 05, 2025 at 11:20 AM



“ *Jerry & Jody Check II purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.*



Jerry & Jody Check II - May 05, 2025 at 09:32 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.*



May 05, 2025 at 09:12 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.*



May 05, 2025 at 08:55 AM



“ *A wonderful leader, mentor, and friend – Tom served with purpose, grace and humility. I was fortunate to have worked with Tom for many years. He had an extraordinary gift for balancing his deep devotion to his beloved family with a passionate commitment to his professional career. Tom had the rare ability to make everyone feel truly heard and valued. In conversations both brief and long, he had a way of giving you his complete attention. Whether in moments of celebration or times of challenge, Tom’s warm smile, steady presence, and gentle wisdom reminded us all to find joy in life’s journey. His kindness wasn’t just a gesture - it was a fundamental part of who he was.*

Anne and family, our condolences on your profound loss. We hope you can find some solace in knowing how many lives he enriched through his generosity and loving spirit. – Dennis and Kara Rieck

Dennis - May 05, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ *Anthony Ferrantelli purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.*



Anthony Ferrantelli - May 05, 2025 at 07:37 AM

MG

“ I am very thankful to have Tom as a leader during the time we worked together, learned a lot from him and always hold a huge respect. May the peace cover all Esser family hearts.

Mauricio Curi Gois - May 05, 2025 at 06:35 AM

MC

“ Mauricio C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Joseph Esser.

Mauricio C. - May 05, 2025 at 06:32 AM

TH

“ Terry and Joanie Helgesen purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



Terry and Joanie Helgesen - May 04, 2025 at 09:17 PM

TG

“ I was very saddened to hear of Tom's passing. We grew up a street apart and attended Emerson Elementary, Kennedy Junior High, Fraser High School, and Michigan State University together. In addition, our families were members of Our Lady Queen of All Saints Church. We also played many years of football and baseball together. While we hadn't kept in close touch in recent years, last year we saw each other at a Fraser alumni event at the old Hof Brau and picked up as if no time had passed, laughing and reminiscing about the many great times we had growing up together. My deepest condolences to Annie and to Tom's entire family. - Tom Ghesquiere

Tom Ghesquiere - May 04, 2025 at 05:11 PM

P<

“ Pat & Beth Cline. <>< purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



Pat & Beth Cline. <>< - May 04, 2025 at 04:35 PM

P<

“ Pat & Beth Cline. <>< planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thomas Joseph Esser.

Pat & Beth Cline. <>< - May 04, 2025 at 04:35 PM

DM

“ DENSO Sales & Marketing purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



DENSO Sales & Marketing - May 04, 2025 at 11:41 AM

BF

“ Our time on this earth is limited for all of us, and although Tom's journey was briefer than most, he filled each moment with profound meaning and purpose.

Tom approached life with remarkable balance—devoting himself wholeheartedly to his family whom he cherished above all else, while still bringing passion and dedication to his professional life. He worked with intention and celebrated with equal enthusiasm, teaching us all how to embrace both responsibility and joy.

What stood out most about Tom was his extraordinary ability to connect with people. He never saw barriers between individuals, only opportunities to build bridges. His genuine warmth and openness meant he moved through life collecting friends rather than adversaries.

Anne and family, please accept my deepest condolences during this unimaginable time of loss. The void Tom leaves behind speaks to the fullness with which he lived and loved. I hope you find some small comfort in knowing how many lives he touched, and that the beautiful memories you created together will remain forever in your hearts, a testament to a life well-lived. Bill and Deb Foy

Bill Foy - May 04, 2025 at 11:22 AM

KT

“ Katie, Mariah, & Tyonna purchased the Love Eve rlasting Bouquet for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



Katie, Mariah, & Tyonna - May 04, 2025 at 10:02 AM

TF

“ *The Dan Breese family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.*



The Dan Breese family - May 04, 2025 at 09:31 AM

JM

“ *We are so very sorry to hear about Tom’s passing. We remember Tom as always having a smile. We send our love to Annie and the girls. May you find comfort and peace in all your good memories you shared.*

Joe & Joann Marchionda - May 04, 2025 at 09:26 AM

GV

“ *I am at a loss for words, and for me, that is extremely rare. Tom was such a great guy, always smiling and always positive. We grew up together at Denso. He was also responsible for bringing me back to Denso in the Ford Sales Group. He taught me so much, as I was a very rigid engineer. He created a great team. Absolutely some the best times of my professional life. Tom will be greatly missed, but I am thankful that he is no longer in pain and suffering. To Anne, Jess, and Chelsea, you should be very proud. He was very special to many, and we all share in your loss. May God keep you and support you in this most difficult time.*

Glenn Valentine - May 04, 2025 at 08:54 AM

JN

My deepest and sincerest condolences to the Esser family. This a a very sad loss as Tom was not only a work colleague but a good friend. He will be missed.

Jeff Niermann - May 04, 2025 at 10:14 AM

EG

“ Ed, Gerri, Eamonn, and Joe Gehle purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



Ed, Gerri, Eamonn, and Joe Gehle - May 04, 2025 at 08:14 AM

EG

“ Ed, Gerri, Eamonn, and Joe Gehle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Joseph Esser.

Ed, Gerri, Eamonn, and Joe Gehle - May 04, 2025 at 08:14 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



May 03, 2025 at 07:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Joseph Esser.

May 03, 2025 at 07:41 PM

BZ

“ Bill and Janet Ziecina purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



Bill and Janet Ziecina - May 03, 2025 at 06:40 PM

BZ

“ Bill and Janet Ziecina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Joseph Esser.

Bill and Janet Ziecina - May 03, 2025 at 06:40 PM

TF

“ The Wiles & Poma Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



The Wiles & Poma Family - May 03, 2025 at 06:05 PM

LH

“ So very sorry to hear of Tom's passing at Such a young age. He always had That smile and was so kind and calm. I retired from Denso two years ago after 37 years there. I remember when Tom started. Prayers to you Ann and your daughters. Rest in peace Tom and you will be missed by so many 🙏

linda Huber - May 03, 2025 at 05:59 PM

KC

“ So very very sorry to learn of Tom’s passing. May he rest in peace. Our condolences to his family....such a kind and caring individual. It was such a pleasure to know him at Denso. We grew up together in our Denso family. I retired in 2021 after 42 years....so I knew Tom during his duration at work. Wonderful man with a great smile and kind heart. Hugs to you, Anne, and your girls. May you find comfort in knowing that so many will miss him.
-Karen Croly and husband, John

Karen Croly - May 03, 2025 at 05:04 PM

FB

“ Frank, Victoria, Andrew, Erin, Brett purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



Frank, Victoria, Andrew, Erin, Brett - May 03, 2025 at 03:52 PM

KA

“ Kristin & Andrew purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Joseph Esser.



Kristin & Andrew - May 03, 2025 at 03:09 PM

GV

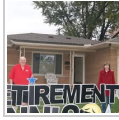
“ I will forever remember Toms wonderful smile and his caring personality. Tom had a way of making you feel comfortable to be around. We will miss you.

Gina Ventimiglio - May 03, 2025 at 02:50 PM

BL

Tom was an amazing cousin! He and Annie were always there to see us when we were able to get back to Michigan. As a child, we had many precious memories. You will be missed! ❤️🙏❤️

Barbara Lockwood - May 03, 2025 at 06:57 PM



My condolences to Tom's family. I remember chatting with Tom as he visited my test chambers at Denso. Always loved the smile and kind words that he had as we talked.

Dennis Kurk - May 04, 2025 at 01:23 AM

MH

There was a group of us who joined Denso around the same time, and Tom was one of them. He immediately became a friend and confident to me, as I was going through a very difficult personal time and adjusting to being a great distance from my sons. I remember the joy that he shared when he became a father for the first time and that how he always made his family the most important aspect of his life. His smile, his love of life, his loyalty and commitment to others are what made Tom the man and great friend that he was. I will miss sneaking out to play golf, the Big Ten shots, the epic ping pong games in the Tech Center, Opening Day at Comerica...but mostly i will miss my friend. Until we meet again...

Morris Hammer - May 12, 2025 at 10:26 AM