

Thomas Carmine Gelardi

November 11, 1931 - October 28, 2024

GELARDI, Thomas Carmine. October 28, 2024. Age 92. Beloved husband of Noranda (Zorzit) Gelardi. Proud and adored father of Edie (David) Gelardi Damus, Lisa (David) Gelardi Bottesi, and Sherri (Kurt) Dettloff. Cherished grandfather of Blake, Madison, Makenzie, Bryce. Loving brother of the late Salvatore 'Chuck' (the late Laura) Gelardi. Dear brother-in-law of the late Elida (the late Larry) Ribauda, Mary Bringas and Aurora (the late Ben) Riss. Survived by many wonderful nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Anthony and Edith Gelardi.

Tom had a captivating spirit that touched the hearts of so many. He had an innate talent for deeply connecting with people. He cared, was curious, and couldn't wait to know more about you. He remembered every detail. He asked about it the next time he saw you. He made you feel heard, understood, and special.

He knew how to weave together an amazing story that left you in awe of what he knew. He was a superfan of sports, especially the Boston Celtics. He was passionate about playing handball into his late 80s.

Tom's career in the music industry spanned over 67 years. His marketing and promotional impact reverberated through the industry. From Capital Records to Tom Gelardi Promotions, he felt privileged to have spent his life helping

artists. He won Billboard's "Promo Man of the Year" award twice in the 1970s. In 2023, he won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Detroit Music Awards. He worked with countless acts throughout his career, including: The Beatles, Nancy Wilson, Heart, Bob Seger, Wayne Newton, Bobby Vinton, Grand Funk Railroad, the Beach Boys and the Four Freshmen. He considered himself very lucky to have found a job in an industry in which he completely loved. He never tired of working because to him it was not work -- it was his passion. Until February of this year, Tom was still doing what he loved: visiting accounts and promoting great music.

Above everything, he loved his family. He took an interest in every aspect of his daughters', son-in-laws' and grandkids' lives. You knew this because he took every opportunity to share his pride in their accomplishments. It was his wife of 61 years, however, who was the love of his life. He called her his "#1"...."his everything".

He made friends everywhere he went. From coworkers, to flight attendants to strangers in the grocery store line.

We find comfort in knowing Tom's legacy lives on. It is in his lessons taught by example, his love for everyone, and our memories.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 3-8pm with a 7pm Rosary at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile). Instate will be Monday at 10am. Mass at

10:30am at St. Faustina Catholic Church, 14025 12 Mile Rd, Warren, MI 48088. Entombment at Resurrection Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to St. Vincent de Paul, St. Faustina Conference. Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at WujekCalcaterra.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Rosary

NOV 3. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Instate / Funeral Mass

NOV 4. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Faustina Catholic Church
14025 12 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093

Tribute Wall

NM

“ Nancy from the Baker's movie purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.



Nancy from the Baker's movie - December 18, 2024 at 12:19 AM

AC

“ Tommy was a class act, a one of a kind in all the important ways. We shared a ton of laughs and good stories. Claudia and I were privileged to spend time with Tommy and his wonderful wife, Noranda. He enriched my life in many ways. He will be sorely missed.

Love,
Al Cohen

Al Cohen - November 03, 2024 at 05:25 PM

MP

“ Tom. An extraordinary man with a personality to match. You lived a blessed and rewarding life. And a saint for embracing the Evola family (lol). Your kindness to others earned you that well deserved EXPRESS elevator to heaven. Sleep in heavenly peace. Mona (Evola) Paglia-Selburn



mona paglia-selburn - November 03, 2024 at 09:17 AM

RL

“ For over Fifty years Tom would come in every Monday to talk about the music business in the area. We surely miss his visits and stories. We send our condolences from two generations of the LeAnnais family. (Dearborn Music)

rick leannais - November 02, 2024 at 08:51 PM

JF

“ I met Tom in the mid 70's at The Disc in East point. We became good friends after that and I enjoyed hearing all the stories about his time at Capitol Records. I so looked forward to our meetings at The Disc every single Saturday morning with our frind John for close to 40 years. I will miss those meetings, but mostly I will miss my very good friend. I hope one day to reunite with you and pick up where we left off. Love you my dear, dear friend!

John Freist - November 02, 2024 at 08:11 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.



November 02, 2024 at 07:27 PM



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

November 02, 2024 at 07:27 PM

RL

“ Rick L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.

Rick L. - November 02, 2024 at 07:16 PM

GS

“ What a beautiful, kind caring gentleman we lost, my cousin Tom! I know he was suffering so much for many years but now he can Rest In Peace. I remember the times he came to Windsor with his friend and I use to cut his hair. Then we went over to my Uncle Armando where he enjoyed his home made wine. I remember the times Noranda and Tom went to see my mother in Italy which she enjoyed so much in seeing them. May God Bless Noranda for all the love and care she gave him all these years. Now Tom you are in Heaven where Jesus and his Angels are welcoming you with open arms.

With Love and Sympathy to Noranda and all the family.
Gino and Maggie

Gino Spano - November 02, 2024 at 06:16 PM

CK

“ The first time I came to the disc to record my first CD over 20 years ago, I was greeted by Tom who told me about his rich family history of a vegetable/ fruit truck that went up and down residential streets and of all the people he has helped and promoted! He will truly be missed...🥹



Chelly K - November 02, 2024 at 05:16 PM



“ *Mr. Gelatdi was our biggest cheerleader at the studio. No matter how many mistakes we made, his claps were the loudest and he always said we were amazing. When I started teaching hip hop, he made me a cd of the latest music, the clean versions, so the teens had music they knew to warm up to. My favorite was always talking "Newsies" with you. Very few people knew of the original movie. It was so fun to talk about it with someone who loved it as much as me. I love and miss you so much!* ❤️❤️❤️

Angela Castiglione - November 02, 2024 at 11:08 AM



**Gelardi*

Angela Castiglione - November 02, 2024 at 11:09 AM



“ *Love, Joe, Beckie, Mary, Thomas and Joan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.*



Love, Joe, Beckie, Mary, Thomas and Joan - November 02, 2024 at 04:06 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.*



November 01, 2024 at 11:47 PM



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

November 01, 2024 at 11:47 PM



“ For the better part of fifty-three years, I would visit Tom almost every Saturday morning. I have so many wonderful memories. The last few years we kept in touch by phone first because of COVID then Tom's health problems. I so missed seeing him. Tom would always ask about my family in Italy and how I was doing. He was so proud of his daughters and grand children and thanked God for Noranda. Thank you for your friendship.

Much love

John

John De Lorenzo - November 01, 2024 at 10:04 PM



“ John D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.

John D. - November 01, 2024 at 09:53 PM



“ Matt and Diem purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.



Matt and Diem - November 01, 2024 at 08:13 PM

TF

“ *The Santos Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.*



The Santos Family - November 01, 2024 at 02:48 PM

TF

“ *The Santos Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.*

The Santos Family - November 01, 2024 at 02:48 PM

BM

“ *We met when I was producing the Scene on channel 62 - It was always a treat when Tom showed up. I wonder what he's got under his arm to get played on Heaven's turntables. May his memory be a blessing to us all!*

Brian Major - November 01, 2024 at 02:44 PM

LF

“ *Loved that guy ... Back in the 80's he even got me to kinda like the Celtics and I HATED the Celtics. Tons of fun watching and talking about that Piston Celtic rivalry. He will be missed. Jill and I will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers. Anything you need don't hesitate to ask*

Larry Fiori - November 01, 2024 at 01:01 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.



November 01, 2024 at 10:40 AM



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

November 01, 2024 at 10:40 AM



“ Tom was one of a kind. He would make calls to me when I was a programmer in Jackson MI, Grand Rapids, Detroit and Flint and never changed regardless of my market influence. Genuine, kind, and filled with a passion for his calling and family. Right now he's working St. Peter on the new Taylor Swift single. We will miss you Tom, save a pair of Tiger tickets when we meet again.

Michael Kay - November 01, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ I met Tom almost 50 years ago when he would come into the station I worked at to talk records. He didn't necessarily have product at the time, but just loved to chat. I learned so much from him, like trying to always remember a persons name. There was no one better. Later, when I wanting the music business but in automotive, he would still come by and we would chat about cars. He was a wonderful human being! So lucky to have met him! One of the greats!!

carl Galeana - November 01, 2024 at 09:18 AM

AA

“ Ashleigh and Tameka Arnold purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.



Ashleigh and Tameka Arnold - October 31, 2024 at 11:03 PM

DS

“ I've known Mr. Gelardi most of my life through his daughter, my best friend. I am blessed to have known this wonderful man and his unique and special way of connecting. His joy for life was evident in his smile and in his eyes. I treasure all my wonderful conversations and memories. With so much love and appreciation for his spirit.

Debby Smith - October 31, 2024 at 09:17 PM

MS

“ A great friend to my parents and our family. Every time I put some vinyl on the turntable with friends his name comes up with a fond memories. They always wonder how I found such great albums when I was young. He was the man who introduced me to so many new sounds.

Marc Shulman

Marc Shulman - October 31, 2024 at 07:22 PM

DS

“ What a great ride Tom had. He was always smiling, kind and full of positive energy. I didn't know very many people when I opened my CD store, but Tom was always such a gentleman and made you feel like you were old friends. I'm so glad I got a chance to meet him and share music together. Rest in peace 🙏

David Siegel - October 31, 2024 at 07:02 PM

NM

“ I met Tom over 50 years ago and he was always very nice guy with a joke and a smile.

Nat Morris - October 31, 2024 at 04:51 PM

PA

“ Tom was a great man and father and it was wonderful to catch up and reconnect with him a few years ago. Sending my love and condolences to the family.

Paul Anka - October 31, 2024 at 04:49 PM

MP

“ Mr. Gelardi was a man of many smiles and hugs. He always would stop to talk with you and always knew your name. He was our biggest fan at the dance recitals and the one to get the applause going during a dance routine. He was so proud of every dancer, big or all on that stage. I remember when New Kids On The Block released their first album, I told him how much I liked them He then surprised me with their cassette tape. Thirty-seven years he has been apart of my life, he will be greatly missed ❤️

Mary Petzer - October 31, 2024 at 12:11 PM

BB

“ Tom was such a warm and caring friend. Never once, while discussing his new records, did I have the feeling he was being nice, so he would get an "add". I shall forever miss our lunches with Kelvyn Ventour, the endless stories, and his greeting, on the phone or in person: "Bobby!" He is missed, he is remembered, he is loved. God Rest His Great Soul. Condolences to his family.

*Bob Berry
Bradenton, Florida*

Bob Berry - October 31, 2024 at 09:11 AM

NM

“ My life was enriched through my brief encounters with Tom during our Saturday morning handball games. He was great to talk to before our games and fun to play with in the handball courts.

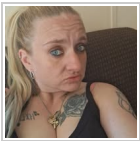
Nick Morang - October 31, 2024 at 08:45 AM

KG

“ This man - one of THE nicest in the music business - was simply wonderful. I met Tom probably 40 years ago when I worked for Record Outlet - the stories (Beatles stories) he would regale me with.

Thank you, Tom, for being the great man you were.

Ken Giorlando - October 30, 2024 at 10:38 PM



“ I don't even have words you where my godfather my mother and father adored you! I guess my dad gets to see you now my mom's heart and mine is shattered my prayers and condolences to out to the whole family you will forever be missed!



Krystyna Conley - October 30, 2024 at 09:08 PM

GM

“ Tom and I went back to the late 60s when he was with Capitol records and I was a radio programmer. Truly a great professional in the music business. Those of us who crossed paths with Tom were very blessed by it. Rest in peace Tom, what a legacy you leave behind

Gary Major - October 30, 2024 at 06:58 PM

TS

“ While picking up an order for HARMONY HOUSE in the 1960's, Tom snagged me into his office to meet Al Martino. He was kind to me from that point on and never forgot my name, which is Tom. I have so many beautiful memories as I would see Tom weekly. Prayers to the family. Tom Selman

Tom Selman - October 30, 2024 at 06:11 PM

LX

“ Love, your team here in Burbank xxxooo purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.



Love, your team here in Burbank xxxooo - October 30, 2024 at 03:05 PM

LX

“ Love, your team here in Burbank xxxooo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.

Love, your team here in Burbank xxxooo - October 30, 2024 at 03:05 PM

SS

“ Tom was one of the nicest, genuine gentleman in the business and a great mentor and supporter of mine and my record label, Static Records. His words of advice stick with me thru this day. His love of music and generosity will always be remembered. Thank you sir!!

Sue Summers - October 30, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.*



October 30, 2024 at 10:41 AM



“ *Mr. Gelardi and the entire family has been apart of my life for over 30 years. He was always someone I would look for in the audience while I was on stage dancing at encore. I have so many fond memories of him. He always made you feel like you were the only person in the room with him. The sweetest, kindest, most gentle man. I was blessed to know him. May God welcome him into heaven with open arms.* ☐

Caitlin Leach - October 30, 2024 at 10:38 AM



I met Tom many years ago as a ticket seller at the Fisher theatre .He was a friend of my boss Joe Nederlander . Tom was always a true gentleman who treated everyone with respect And kindness ❤️❤️❤️

maggie moore - October 30, 2024 at 09:03 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Tom Gelardi's passing. Uncle Tom was always smiling, always kind, and always had a great story to share. There are two things for which I will remember him most ... his incredibly beautiful eyes which always had a sparkle in them, and his phone calls giving me updates on the Lettermen and generously giving me so many of their CDs. Rest in Peace, Uncle Tom! Heaven has gained an angel.*

Angela Pizzimenti - October 30, 2024 at 09:52 AM

DS

“ We were so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr Gelardi. He was a kind, gentle man who loved his family dearly and always had a kind word for everyone. He will be with us forever as we remember his wonderful stories and his beautiful smile!

diane spiteri - October 30, 2024 at 09:31 AM

MM

“ Martha & Molly purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.



Martha & Molly - October 30, 2024 at 07:18 AM

MM

“ Martha & Molly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Carmine Gelardi.

Martha & Molly - October 30, 2024 at 07:18 AM

JV

“ Judi Vargo lit a candle in memory of Thomas Carmine Gelardi



Judi Vargo - October 30, 2024 at 06:21 AM

JV

Sending heartfelt condolences to all the family and friends of this incredible, gentle, friendly and loving man. He was always so kind to everyone and always had such interesting stories to share.

Judi Vargo - October 30, 2024 at 06:27 AM

CP

without a doubt one of the finest guys i worked with. he was both a mentor and partner in so many things that we did together for so many years. He was loved and appreciated by all of us in the music industry world for his knowledge, energy and spirit. heartfelt condolences to the family. We will always remember him and smile when we do!

CLAY PASTERNAK - October 30, 2024 at 05:50 PM

LF

Larry Fiori

Loved that guy ... Back in the 80's he even got me to kinda like the Celtics and I hated the Celtics. Tons of fun watching and talking about that Piston Celtic rivalry. He will be missed. Jill and I will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers. Anything you need don't hesitate to ask

Larry Fiori - October 30, 2024 at 08:15 PM