



R. Thomas Keyes Jr.

April 19, 1947 - December 28, 2017

Thomas Keyes Jr, formerly a resident of Roseville and Shoreview and, most recently, St. Anthony, died of pulmonary fibrosis on December 28, 2017 in the loving presence of his family. Tom was born in Faribault, Minnesota to Ralph Thomas Sr. and Bette Lee Keyes, where he lived until the age of eight, when his family moved to Falcon Heights, in the Twin Cities. It was in 3rd grade at his new school, St. Rose of Lima, where he then met the girl who would become the love of his life, Diane Andersen.

Tom worked in technology and banking for 35 years, running national sales teams for large companies, traveling the United States and the Caribbean as an independent banking consultant, and coordinating the online presence of Minneapolis Children's Hospital. He joined the real estate industry in 2004, and found it to be a perfect fit for his talents. He loved helping people, understood all manner of construction, and had an affinity for detailed legal work, having picked it up by osmosis from his dad, who was an attorney. Even though he wasn't an attorney himself, two of the large companies he worked for used Tom to draft legal documents, despite having attorneys on retainer. However, it was in his life of service that Tom's spirit really showed. He was active in politics for many years, and turned down an opportunity to run for the state legislature. He served on the board for Marriage Encounter, and many other local and state boards. In 1993 he and Diane entered the Diaconate Formation Program, and he was ordained as a Catholic Deacon in September of 1996. He served the Catholic community of St. John the Evangelist in Little

Canada for seventeen years with Pastor Father Robert Fitzpatrick, and pastoral minister, Marie Winn.

Tom served many communities in numerous ways over the years. He volunteered as a chaplain at Saint John's Hospital for more than 23 years, and for ten years was the coordinator of the Infant Interment program. After his ordination, he served on the Archbishop's Pastoral Advisory Council, the Archdiocesan Office of Conciliation Advisory Board, and the Archdiocesan Finance Allocation Panel. He was Chairman of the Public Safety Committee for the City of Shoreview, a board member of the Twin Cities Electronic Commerce Forum, and sat on the Economic Development Grant Review Board for the State of Minnesota. He was a member of the St. Paul Association of Realtors Housing Foundation Committee, and of the NorthstarMLS Agent Advisory Committee and of the boards of both the State Association of Realtors and the National Board of Realtors. Although he often received accolades for his work, his greatest reward was the satisfaction he received from helping people.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Diane; children, Kelsey (John Hassett) and Troy (Debbie); grandchildren, Vincent (10) and Josie (8); siblings, Patty, Marcia (Dave) Wiger, Jim (Sandy), Barb (Duane, who also recently passed) Jenkins, Dan and Tim; mother-in-law, Lorraine Andersen; Diane's siblings, Gary (Katie) Andersen, Gail (Bob) Peterson and Brian (Laura) Andersen; nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, members of his small faith community, Marge Bregi and Linda Konkel; and most recently by his dear friend, Tuffy Bryant and much loved uncle-in-law, Herb Shearen.

A gathering of family and friends will take place from 4-7PM Thursday, January 4 at ST ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2048 Hamline Avenue North, Roseville. Mass of Christian Burial 10AM Friday, January 5 (gathering begins at 9AM) also at ST ROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Private interment in St. John's Cemetery, Little Canada.

Memorials are preferred to the family

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Diane and family, I'm so very sorry for your loss. I'm so amazed by his obituary! He really was an exceptional man who loved to give to others. It was a gift to know you both in the diaconate!* ”



Susan (Gheen) Brown - July 16, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ *Tom will be so missed he was always such a nice gentleman. I will miss seeing him for his haircuts and I will miss our conversations may you rest in peace.* ”

Judy - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ *Rest in peace Tom. You were a good friend and always lent me a listening ear. Prayers to you and your entire family!* ”

Leon Axtman - February 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *Tom was a part of our Wendy's family. I enjoyed the conversations we had! Sorry for your loss.* ”

Tom Schmitz - January 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Dear Diane, Just today I read of Tom's death. I am so sorry for you and your family. I know it is a terrible loss for all of you. Tom was a wonderful man. I'm sorry I did not make time to spend more time with the two of you. My heart-felt sympathy and prayers for you and your family. Carol Faust

Carol Faust - January 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ Condolences to the Keyes family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family. Psalms 147:3 says God, "heals the broken hearted, and binds up their wounds." May God bring you comfort and peace.

Williams Family - January 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. We worked together at American National Bank. He was always happy, smiling and a pleasure to work with. May all the wonderful memories be of comfort to you now and become even more cherished over time. My sincere sympathy, Dawn

Dawn Friedrich - January 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Diane, we were shocked and so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. We know that he took the express train to heaven. He was so incredibly active throughout life that he'll probably set a up a few celestial programs upon reaching his well deserved reward. Love to you and all of your family.

John and Agnes Walsh - January 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Diane and Family, We are saddened by the loss of such a loving man. I remember growing up and Tom hanging around our house. We were blessed to have him at our mother's funeral in April (Mrs. Kelsey as he so lovingly called her). We hope and pray that God will carry you all through this season in your lives and that through faith you will trust that you will see each other again. God Bless and know you are in our prayers and thoughts.*

Jeanne Fox and Family - January 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ *Tom was and is a beautiful spirit and friend, humbled to be his friend! His words, actions, and deeds will continue to be good counsel to all of us... My prayers to Diane and all of the family and friends of lives he touched.*

walter mcfarland - January 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GV

“ *So sorry for your loss of Tom. He was a joy-filled man who helped others. May your memories and God hold you and give you strength.*

Gloria VanDemmeltraadt - January 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Diane, I am so sorry for your great loss. May the love you feel from Tom be eternal. I regret I am out of town until 1/7 but you are in my thoughts and prayers. WOW sister Brenda Schaeffer*

Brenda Schaeffer - January 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Dear Diane and family, I am so sorry for the loss of Tom. I hope in the days to come you will all find peace and joy remembering the special moments of your life with Tom. Our prayers are sent for you and all of the special people in his life. Buzz and Liz Di Marco

Liz Kaiser Di Marco - January 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one, Thomas. It breaks our hearts when death separates us from the ones we love so much. The Bible reminds us that God sees our pain and sadness and has promised that soon, "death will be no more."(Revelation 21:4) He will heal our broken hearts by resurrecting our dear loved ones to life again. (Acts 24:15) Until then, I hope the wonderful memories of Thomas and these promises from God comfort you in the days to come.

Jo - January 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dearest Diane, you and your family are in our prayers. When we got the news yesterday it was a complete shock to us. We will see you on Friday. Just wish it were under different circumstances. Love Judy

Jack and Judy Weiland - January 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GV

“ Dear Diane, my heart is with you as you deal with this terrible loss. My husband Gene died in 2002, and the memories never fade. Remember always that God is with you.

Gloria VanDemmeltraadt - January 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I enjoyed working with Tom so much on the Bloomington Literary Council. He was energetic, smart and funny. A great man and great loss to all who knew him. My condolences to his family.

Jim Koepke - January 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ We are all better people for having Tom be a part of our lives. He has touch so many hearts. He brought us in as a part of his family, and such a wonderful family it is. Thoughts and memories of Tom will bring warmth and smiles to everyone blessed to have known him. Thank you Tom, We Love You.

Mike and Lori Rhodes - January 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ It's such a sad time here on earth now without Tom's kind, generous physical presence. My heart has been so heavy thinking of all of you who've lost this special human being. Diane, please know I'm thinking of you each day and sending love. I'm so sorry to be missing Tom's services while I'm in Hawaii. I will be home in a couple weeks and look forward to spending time with you sharing stories of Tom and listening to what is on your heart. Or simply sitting with you. Much love and sincere aloha to you all...my Tom's spirit continue to be felt by you always. Becky

Becky Henry - January 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

WN

“ I am so sorry. Diane - sending you and your family so much love. xo

Wendy Newman - January 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Diane, you and your family are in my prayers for healing and peace.

Bob Johnston - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ My deepest sympathies Diane. I will remember Tom as a steady loyal friend. I enjoyed working with him as a realtor and when I tried to get him a deacon appointment at St Timothy's in Blaine. He will be missed. Lou

Lou Ochocki - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ I am honored to call Tom family and friend. My prayers are filled with gratitude to have known you. I pray for Presence and Peace to Diane, Kelsey and Troy.

Nancy Straube - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I am very sorry to hear about Tom's passing. I got to know him during our junior year at Cretin when we were both in the play "Witness for the Prosecution". We both had small parts with very few lines so we had a lot of time to hobnob in the hall. We reconnected at our 50th and I saw him at some of our monthly lunches. I will miss him. Diane and family, please accept my condolences and I hope you can take comfort from knowing that he had a great life.

Dave Brueggemann - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Diane there are no words. Tom was so loved by all. He had a wonderful life and did so much with his life, well you both did. Mike and I are in AZ for a couple of months so will not be there. If we could we would and I know you know that. Just know we love you and will be praying for you at this time. Love Mike and Kate

Kate and Mike Farkas - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ I am so sad to learn that Tom has finished his journey here. I know that Diane will miss him so terribly. I have so many great memories of countless college nights playing bridge and/or listening to Tuffy and Dick at the Coffee House Extempore. Tom was one of the smartest people I ever knew. May he rest in peace.

Margie Robinson - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Cretin class of 65 would not have been the same without Tom!

Dick Anfang - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ I had many classes at Cretin HS with Tom and recently reconnected with him through alumni gatherings. Most recently I was touched by his acceptance of his disease and its ultimate outcome. He was the epitome of a gentleman.

Jack Palmer - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ We're sorry to learn about Tom's passing. He was part of our Cretin Class of '65 and joined us for get-togethers from time to time. He made sure that we knew just how proud he was of his family. We share in your loss.

Jim Hannegan - January 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM