



# Thomas James DeAngelo

April 25, 1953 - August 22, 2024

Tom DeAngelo was born on April 25, 1953, in Des Moines, Iowa, as the eldest son of Mary Rose (Carpino) DeAngelo and Jim Robert DeAngelo. He died at home on August 22, 2024, at the age of 71 from ALS.

Tom's two daughters, Samantha (Korey) Garvey and Josephine (Ben Oman) DeAngelo are the proudest accomplishments of his life. When they were little girls, Tom shared his creativity with his daughters by illustrating their imaginative stories, and as they got older, he shared his love of athletics with them by coaching their softball teams. As adults, he taught them that worrying doesn't help anything, but doing something may, that strength is all about mindset, to never be ashamed to be a bit of a goofball, to pursue your passions, to believe in yourself, to be open to others' differences, and to take full responsibility for your journey through life.

Tom is preceded in death by his little brother, Mark and survived by his two daughters, his partner Janet and their dog, Maia, his sister Vicki (Bob) Ligouri, his brother Tony (Amy) DeAngelo, and his nieces and nephews Gina, Angela, Nick, Michael, Katherine, and Matthew. Tom is also survived by his brand-new baby grandson, Cormac, who had the loving guidance and protection of his Grandpa Tom from Heaven during the two days leading up to and including his birth.

In addition to his love of family, Tom had an eclectic range of interests. With ease, he could draw an accurate map of all the countries of the world on the back of a napkin, tell you the names of all the rivers in the world (many of which he had fished), spell any word in the dictionary, or sing all the lyrics to Sixteen Tons (the song his mother said he sang to himself as a little boy). He absorbed knowledge - from books, school, people, travel, and living life.

Tom's wide and curious assortment of interests and talents manifested early and often throughout his life. He became the Franklin Junior High chess champion, lived in a barn while interning as a young architecture student in Colorado, fly fished with buddies throughout the US and Canada, played in the NCAA College World Series for the 1972 Big Ten Champion Iowa Hawkeyes Baseball team, was drafted by the Cincinnati baseball farm team out of high school, rode his 1975 Norton motorcycle through various National Parks, was inducted into the Hoover High School Alumni Hall of Fame, and taught University of Minnesota architecture students during study abroad programs in Europe.

Tom's interests in creative and liberal arts, science, creative problem-solving, and teamwork all coalesced into Tom becoming an accomplished architect. After graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1977 with a Bachelor of Architecture, Tom joined the Minneapolis firm Architectural Alliance (now Allliance), where he worked until his retirement in 2023. While at Architectural Alliance, Tom also completed a Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University in NYC. In addition to being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and serving as president of AIA Minnesota, Tom served as President and CEO of Architectural Alliance for 15 years and led more than 100 national and international projects that received more than forty national, regional, and local design awards. Tom's designs (which he preferred to do by hand) were not only beautiful and functional, but also included a unique personal touch. This passion for design excellence is

evident in Tom's partnership work on major civic and public projects including The University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium (where the names of the state's 87 counties are cast in stone around the perimeter of the first level), The Guthrie Theater (which includes its signature 178-foot cantilever bridge that others told him was impossible), the Minnesota Children's Museum (with colorful windows selected by his daughters), the United States Courthouse in Minneapolis (where each Judge designed his/her courtroom), MAC airport (where the sink drains are shaped like airplanes), and the Minneapolis Public Library (with its massive exterior glass windows, each etched with unique Minnesota themes of snow, prairie grass, birch trees, and water). Tom also led the design for several corporate headquarters projects, including Allianz Life Insurance, Securian, Ecolab, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Medtronic, as well as projects for The University of Minnesota, including the Center for Cancer and Cardiovascular Research, the Physics and Nanotechnology Building, the Cargill Center for Genomics, and the renovation of Tate Hall for Physics and Earth Sciences on Northrop Mall. While under Tom's leadership, the firm received the "AIA Minnesota Firm Award" as an AIA Minnesota member firm that made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the architecture profession.

In addition to family and architecture, golf (and his golf buddies at Minneapolis Golf Club) also stole Tom's heart. Now that Tom has begun his next big adventure, we hope that he knows he was loved by his family and by the friends he maintained from grade school through his final years. He was a one-of-a-kind friend and father.

While Tom believed his architecture would stand as his legacy, we believe it was his character and how he embraced life fully. We hope he is playing 18 holes on a new course, his swing is straight, his ball flies far, and his rounds are blessed with no worse than par!

Tom DeAngelo was a life well-lived.

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ I first met Tom a long time ago when we were in Little League, though not on the same team. I certainly, at that time, did not know just how good an athlete he was, particularly when it came to baseball.

Fast forward to high school. He was one of the few friends whom I spent most of my time with and hung out with. Tom excelled both academically and athletically. I remember one summer following high school where, even as a left-hander, he played third base, which took an incredible amount of skill. Like with most friendships, especially those that went as far back as ours, there were many memorable stories to tell and few too many times to do so.

His work and accomplishments are a testimony to his dedication to excellence. However, his relationships with his family and friends are his true legacy. I was blessed to have known him. He will be missed.

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**Mark Kempkes** - September 04, 2024 at 05:18 PM

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**tes** - September 04, 2024 at 05:13 PM

BH

“ Tom was a teammate of mine and many other Hawkeye baseball players when he was at Iowa. Like others, we lost contact over the years, but reconnected in 2017 when we held a 45 year reunion. Saw him again at our 50 year in 2022 and he informed us that he had ALS at that time. It was hard for his teammates to accept. But, as Tom always did, he faced those challenges head on. A great guy! A great teammate! And he will be missed! RIP Tom!

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**Bill Heckroth** - September 03, 2024 at 05:23 PM

JG

“ To Tom's Family - I was a Sigma Nu fraternity brother of Tom's at Iowa. In addition to his baseball exploits with the Hawks during the 1972 College World Series, I always thought he was an even better poker player in the basement of the Sigma Nu House on North Dubuque Street in Iowa City!  
I lost track of Tom for over the next 40 years. He transferred to Minnesota, following his love of architecture. Obviously, it was a wonderful move by him. Iowa's loss, but a big gain by Minnesota! Fortunately, the brothers of Sigma Nu were able to reconnect with Tom over the past 8-10 years. He attended several of our annual reunions in Iowa City and Guttenberg. We rediscovered that Tom was still a great card player and an awfully good golf partner. We so enjoyed learning of his family and his career accomplishments. He made his Hawkeye brothers proud.  
Tom was a good man - we will miss him. His family is in our thoughts and prayers. May perpetual light shine upon him.

*Joe Gitch  
Coralville, Iowa*

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**Joe Gitch** - September 02, 2024 at 06:03 PM

SC

“ I knew Tommy as one of his Minneapolis Golf Course buddies. After moving out of state, I often stayed with him during return trips to MN. We had great conversations over coffee every morning in his front patio on James Avenue. We also had many great conversations, and other “what happens in Palm Springs, stays in Palm Springs” memories during the annual winter trip to wherever Tommy rented a house in that town. Not the greatest driver, Tommy would keep us guessing and the lines on the road became mere suggestions for him. Tommy had the biggest heart in town, always thinking of others before himself. He would go out of his way to take us CA visitors to In-N-Out Burger as he knew we loved it. He was always the most gracious host to me when I stayed with him, always ensuring a comfortable stay. In specific golf memory - while normally so even-keeled and stress free, he did give us a stern “verbal coaching” with a spicy word or two as he arose from one of the sand traps after an errant shot. He was an amazing cook, with meaty, spicy red sauce over pasta as one of his signature meals. So accomplished in his field yet so humble. Truly a life well-lived!

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**Steve Carter** - September 01, 2024 at 01:56 PM