



Thomas Daniel McDonald

February 24, 1943 - March 12, 2023

Dr. Thomas D. McDonald, professor emeritus, Department of Criminal Justice at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota, went home to join the Good Lord on March 12, 2023. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and mentor to many. He is survived by his lifelong love, wife, and best friend, Mary (Doherty).

Tom started his education at St. Columbkille's Catholic School in Brighton, Massachusetts, graduating in the Class of 1960. He attended Suffolk University in Boston, working through school as a taxi driver and driving for Canada Dry. He pursued his master's degree at the University of Maine-Orono. He and Mary married in 1966, exchanging vows at St. Columbkille's Church. Tom delighted in knowing he was officially part of the Doherty family. After graduating with his master's degree, thanks to Mary typing the thesis he wrote, the duo moved to Illinois where Tom earned his PhD from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale. More importantly, it was here that Tom and Mary were blessed with their son Daniel, who quickly became the light of their lives. With his education complete, the family moved to Fargo for Tom's first professorial job which became his career-long position. Their daughter Marya came the next year.

Throughout Tom's career, he served the students at NDSU with pride and dedication. In addition to writing articles, grants, and a book, Tom's notable accomplishments during his tenure included serving two governors on the North Dakota State Parole Board, working with legislators to develop the

state's DUI laws, founding and managing the NDSU Criminal Justice Club, plus coaching youth sports. His students and advisees are now serving across the country in many parts of our criminal justice system.

With all that he did, Tom's true joy was always his family. Patrick joined the family when he and Marya married, and Tom enjoyed Patrick's friendship.

Then came what might have been Tom's favorite role of all-being a grandfather. Tom's four grandchildren brought him great joy and unending pride. Tom always looked forward to their calls, visits, and sharing in their accomplishments. He was very proud of the fine young adults he saw them grow into.

In addition to his wife, Tom is survived by his children Daniel McDonald and Marya (Patrick) Robben; grandchildren Nathan and Natalie McDonald and Patricia and Thomas Robben; brothers Richard (Wanita) and Robert (Louise); the Doherty siblings, and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Mary McDonald, and Mary's parents Edward and Adeline.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on March 24, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Therese Catholic Church, 18323 Minnetonka Blvd., Deephaven, MN 55391, with visitation at the Church one hour prior to Mass. Private burial at Resurrection Cemetery in Shorewood, MN. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to St. Columbkille Partnership School www.stcps.org in Brighton, Massachusetts. Funeral arrangements are being handled by:

Washburn-McReavy.com

Strobeck-Johnson 952-938-9020

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 24. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Therese (Deephaven)
18323 Minnetonka Boulevard
Deephaven, MN 55391

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 24. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Therese (Deephaven)
18323 Minnetonka Boulevard
Deephaven, MN 55391

Tribute Wall



“ I just found out about Dr. McDonald's passing and was very saddened to hear this news. He was an interesting and balanced professor and my hands would literally ache from all the writing I did while taking one of his tests! He was such a great resource for the community and his students and he was always very supportive of his students. I once read a very stern letter he wrote to NDSU administration on behalf of a student - and the college ended up siding with the student! I am so sorry for you loss.

Jennifer Johnsgard - NDSU class of 99

Jennifer Dawn - October 24, 2023 at 04:48 PM



“ I attended a couple of his CJ courses at NDSU Fargo back in 88-89. Later as a probation officer for the MNDOC in Clay County/Moorhead just across the river I stayed in contact with him, and for a number of years, collaborated through our internship program. He was fantastic. My condolences to the family.

Rick Young - April 11, 2023 at 02:52 PM



Rick, Thank you for your kind words and for sharing your memories of Dad. He was very proud of his students and of the internship program. Our best wishes to you. Thank you, Marya Robben and family

Marya Robben - May 20, 2023 at 10:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Thomas Daniel McDonald.



March 23, 2023 at 03:57 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Thomas Daniel McDonald.



March 22, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Thomas Daniel McDonald.



March 20, 2023 at 01:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Thomas Daniel McDonald.



March 19, 2023 at 06:26 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Thomas Daniel McDonald.*



March 19, 2023 at 10:28 AM



“ *I am so saddened to learn of Tom's passing. I have so many memories of 4th floor Menard Hall at NDSU. Tom was Soc-Anthro chair when I began working at Social Sciences. There was lots of laughter on 4th floor. Mary, Dan, Marya and families, you have my sincerest sympathies. May you find peace.*

Janis Kirsch - March 18, 2023 at 01:11 PM



Thank you, Janis. He enjoyed that community.

Marya - March 18, 2023 at 02:41 PM



I worked with many faculty at NDSU and Tom was definitely one of the good ones! I was very sad to learn that he passed away. My condolences to Mary and the rest of his family.

Cathy Heiraas - March 18, 2023 at 05:39 PM



Thank you, Cathy. Mom and all of us really appreciate hearing from you.

Marya - March 18, 2023 at 08:32 PM

JT

We are so saddened to hear of Tom's death. Our families had many wonderful times together in the '70's. Our deepest sympathies to Mary, Daniel & Marya. Terry, Jeri & sons, Parker & Trevor.

Jeri Thilmony - March 20, 2023 at 09:55 PM

MA

Oh, Jeri. So lovely to hear from you. We treasured those times with all of you as well. We hope all of you are well. Thank you for your note. It means so much.

Marya - March 22, 2023 at 02:53 PM

JK

Thinking about you all today.

Janis Kirsch - March 23, 2023 at 02:27 PM

KM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you with deepest sympathy and praying for comfort and peace. -Ken & Charlotte Meester

Ken & Charlotte Meester - March 17, 2023 at 06:29 PM

MA

Thank you, Ken and Char. Mom sends her thanks.

Marya - March 18, 2023 at 02:42 PM

DH

“ Saddened to hear of Tom's passing. He and my dad served on the Fargo Youth Commission and sometimes they stood against the rest of the members so there was a mutual respect between them. I had the privilege of having Tom as a professor. As a Student Older Than Average (SOTA) we shared different views than the teenagers on some topics. He really knew his students more than anyone knew; on the elevator in Menard Hall one day we were alone and he asked me why another SOTA was having trouble in a math class. I was astounded that Tom would know Dave and I were in the same math class. I told Tom it was because Dave asked, "Why." Tom looked at me with an amused look and said, "Twenty-two years in the Air Force and he asks 'why!'" Then he roared with laughter. Tom was one of the most real professors I had. I hope the family has the same good memories I have of this man. May the good Lord be with you in this time of transition.

Darlajejan (Rodunce) Harlow - March 17, 2023 at 10:52 AM

MA

Darlajejan, Thank you for sharing that story. We appreciate hearing it and your kind words.

Marya - March 18, 2023 at 02:45 PM

SA

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. McDonald was an amazing professor, I can only imagine what kind of friend/husband/dad/grandfather he was. I will always remember going to class early to try to get a jump on writing notes, as there were always many. If you earned an "A" in his class, it was earned and deserved. Many prayers to you all in your time of sadness.

~'03 NDSU Grad Sara Boyer

Sara - March 17, 2023 at 07:56 AM

MA

Sara, Thank you for your kind comments. He used to tell us about students who came early to start writing notes. Thank you for being part of his journey.

Marya - March 18, 2023 at 02:48 PM

ST

“ *My love goes to the entire McDonald and Robben families. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Love, Stacy Swenson Thomassen

Stacy - March 16, 2023 at 05:10 PM

MA

Thanks, Stacy. Mom and all of us appreciate your kindness.

Marya - March 18, 2023 at 02:49 PM

JT

So very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Our families had great times together in the 70's. Our deepest condolences to Mary, Dan & Marya. Love Terry, Jeri & sons Parker & Trevor.

Jeri Thilmoney - March 20, 2023 at 09:59 PM