



Thomas John Perry

September 27, 1957 - October 7, 2024

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Tom, our loving father, brother, uncle, and friend passed away unexpectedly on October 7, 2024. A fall and brain injury put him in the hospital 18 days prior. The amazing efforts of his coworkers, the paramedics, hospital nurses and doctors, and his family and friends all gave him hope to live. We enjoyed his 67th birthday in the hospital and experienced days of laughter, love and friendship- the antidote for our fears. But the book of life closed. We should all remember his joyous character and amazing life.

He graduated from Minneapolis North High School, Golden Valley Lutheran College, the University of Minnesota, and Augsburg College Graduate Program.

Born and raised in North Minneapolis, he followed in his father's footsteps as a great Polar athlete, earning letters and honors in Football, Basketball and Baseball. He played again at Golden Valley Lutheran College, and at the University of Minnesota. He was never the biggest or tallest - just the most determined, the quickest and best. You couldn't beat him at a game of scrabble or chess. Seven letter words were his specialty.

He was a marathon runner, cyclist, canoe racer and triathlete. He ran to the top of Pikes Peak and completed the Border-to-Border triathlon from Iowa to Canada with his brother several times. He loved professional and team sports, canoe trips, fishing adventures with his life-long friends and the "lake life". So much so, he maintained his lakeshore home in Little Canada for over 30 years. He passed away wishing to get back to his lake - he told his doctors "I'm living the dream!" The haunting, awesome roar of ice breaking up on the lake in spring was earth day hallelujah for Tom.

He loved public-school teaching, coaching and all his students. After a short attempt at retirement, he went back to teaching. His style was honed working in park and recreation, camp counseling and coaching youth teams.

He greatly loved his son Tyler (and was his biggest fan), his extended family and friends. He was so cheerful, full of energy, fun-loving and morale boosting. This spirit was always there, especially in his own times of adversity. In Finnish lore we call this the spirit of SISU.

Tom's memory will be cherished by his son Tyler, brother Doug (Karen), many nieces, nephews, extended family and life-long friends and he is reunited with his parents Marcella and Ernest Perry and his sister Sue George.

We invite all to come to the memorial service and celebrate his life at Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel, 5125 W Broadway, Crystal, MN 55429 on Monday October 14th, 2024. Visitation from 4:00 - 5:00PM, memorial service at 5:00PM followed by a "tailgate party" and celebration of his life at the chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **14.** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Chapel Service

OCT **14.** 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Tribute Wall

CP

“ I'm late in expressing my sympathy - but I wanted to share with his family and friends the impact that Tom had on the lives of so many teachers (and especially mine) - this is a post I shared on my Facebook page. I was Tom's professor at Augsburg College - and later worked with Tom when he was a cooperating teacher for the U of MN and a mentor teacher for LDA Minnesota:

It's with a heavy heart that I share that Tom Perry passed away earlier this month. I'm late in sharing this, so his funeral has passed but I know some of you had him as a mentor and/or a cooperating teacher. He was one of the BEST special education teachers I had the pleasure to work with. First, as a student of mine (and MaryBeth's) when we taught classes at Augsburg College; and again, as a cooperating teacher for many years in partnership with the U of MN (DCD program). He was so creative at designing opportunities for his students with more needs, specifically focused on the areas of transition (employment and recreation and leisure in particular). Every time I visited his classroom at Transition Plus in Minneapolis, I was in awe of how he worked with his students (and student teachers). He focused on teaching partnership and collaboration and the importance of working with families to design true individualized education plans for students. When MBK and I started the LDA licensure program, he was on the TOP of our list to recruit to be mentor teacher. I always appreciated his willingness to learn and his commitment to the field of education. Tom - you are forever in our memories and hearts. You made a difference in so many lives, especially mine.

Christine Peper

Christine Peper - October 21, 2024 at 07:30 PM

JN

“ Jack Niederhaus purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Thomas John Perry.



Jack Niederhaus - October 14, 2024 at 11:41 AM

JN

“ Jack Niederhaus planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas John Perry.

Jack Niederhaus - October 14, 2024 at 11:41 AM

JB

“ Sending deepest condolences. I worked with Tom for many years in Mpls Public School, we last worked together at TPlus. He will be greatly missed! Ms. Jessica Braun

Jessica Braun - October 14, 2024 at 09:30 AM

DR

“ Demian R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas John Perry.

Demian R. - October 13, 2024 at 03:07 PM

FV

“ Frederick V. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas John Perry.



Frederick V. - October 12, 2024 at 08:53 PM

FV

“ Frederick V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas John Perry.

Frederick V. - October 12, 2024 at 08:53 PM

JH

“ Jim Hays purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas John Perry.



Jim Hays - October 12, 2024 at 07:09 PM

AG

“ Aunt Gloria purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas John Perry.



Aunt Gloria - October 12, 2024 at 04:44 PM

AG

“ Aunt Gloria planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas John Perry.

Aunt Gloria - October 12, 2024 at 04:44 PM

CC

“ Canadian Days Committee purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas John Perry.



Canadian Days Committee - October 12, 2024 at 04:29 PM

TF

“ T-Plus staff, students and families purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas John Perry.



T-Plus staff, students and families - October 12, 2024 at 03:17 PM

TF

“ T-Plus staff, students and families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas John Perry.

T-Plus staff, students and families - October 12, 2024 at 03:17 PM

WF

“ *We Love You! The Ham & Larson Families purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Thomas John Perry.*



We Love You! The Ham & Larson Families - October 12, 2024
at 12:13 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas John Perry.*



October 12, 2024 at 10:58 AM

PF

“ *Perry-Jolsvay Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas John Perry.*

Perry-Jolsvay Family - October 12, 2024 at 10:58 AM