



## Thomas Edward Richardson

December 18, 1957 - March 25, 2023

Our dearly loved Tom Richardson, age 65, passed away unexpectedly on March 25.

Tom wanted to make every visit with family and friends special and a celebration. To say he was over the top would be an understatement. From hosting his own birthday party and giving gifts to all of his guests, to insisting that he prepare a full traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings and full bird, even for only two people. He traveled the world, attended multiple Olympic Games, World Series, Super Bowls, and holds a record for the largest yellowfin tuna caught in New Zealand. However, Tom was never happier than when he was with family, and especially loved spending time with his grandchildren. Tom would seek out the world's largest corn maze, a little kid friendly Halloween festival, the Midwest's biggest Christmas light display, and trips on the Christmas train with Santa. Aside from all the grand gestures, he is remembered most for simply showing up. The weekly family dinners, his grandchildren's concerts, games, and recitals, Saturday Mass, golf outings, casual get togethers with friends, cabin trips, hunting outings, and poker nights are where his presence will be missed most.

Tom grew up in St. Cloud, MN. The oldest child of Edward (Ed) and Caroline (Carrie) Richardson, who instilled a strong sense of service to others. He graduated from Cathedral High School in 1976, where he played multiple

sports including hockey and football.

Tom attended the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN where he studied journalism, graduating in 1980. After graduating, Tom stayed active at St. Thomas, serving two terms on the Alumni Advisory Board, was inducted into the Society of Arches, and received multiple awards and recognition for service to the St. Thomas community. He frequently attended First Friday Luncheons, Tommie football and basketball games, and enjoyed kicking off the Christmas season by attending St. Thomas' annual Christmas Concert.

Though Tom lived most of his adult life in St. Paul, St. Cloud never left his heart. Tom's father, Ed, had organized the annual St. Cloud Fourth of July fireworks for several decades through American Legion Post 76. When Ed passed away in 2005, Tom took the reins and has been leading the all volunteer event ever since. As Fireworks Commissioner Tom strived to provide the people of Central Minnesota the most enjoyable celebration possible. The fireworks demonstration grew to the largest in Minnesota on the Fourth of July and to allow for better viewing in more parts of the city, in 2006 firework launches were moved to a barge in the middle of Mississippi River, which Tom piloted himself. When American Legion Post 76 closed, Tom worked to found the St. Cloud Fireworks Committee, a non-profit organization, to ensure Central Minnesota would continue to have fireworks on the Fourth of July. Tom recently announced his intent to retire after the 2026 Fourth of July celebration, to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, after 21 years of volunteer service.

Tom was an active parishioner at the Church of the Assumption in St. Paul. He was a fixture at the Saturday 5pm Mass where he volunteered in several roles including sacristan, extraordinary minister, usher, and hospitality minister. Tom participated in the Archdiocesan Synod and was currently a part of the Synod Evangelization Team, where he was excitedly preparing to help

spread the Gospel.

Out of all these impressive accomplishments he was most proud of his son, Ryan. They loved playing golf together, celebrating every birthday and holiday together. With a strong foundation of faith and family tradition, they shared a bond of respect and love that every Father and Son would pray for.

Tom, you will be missed and never forgotten. We love you.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; Ed and Carrie, and survived by son Ryan (Andrea); grandchildren, Adriana, Robbie, Adeline, Raina; brothers Steve (Kristine), Paul (Teri); nephews Tyler, Bryan, Eric; and many relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, we humbly request, without expectation, memorials be directed to the family to be spread among causes dear to Tom.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery (St. Paul)

753 Front Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Northeast Chapel  
2901 Johnson St NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
(612) 781-6828  
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

## Visitation

APR 4. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Assumption - St. Paul  
51 West 7th Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Assumption - St. Paul  
51 West 7th Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102



# Tribute Wall

PW

“ Tom was a very respected, long-time tenant of ours at Twelve Oaks Center. We are all saddened to learn of his passing...especially me, Matt and Brian. He was such a man of principal and caring. Peace to his family.

Pam Wilson - April 13, 2023 at 05:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Richardson.



April 04, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Richardson.



April 03, 2023 at 12:35 PM

TB

“ The St. Cloud Fire Works Committee Board purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Thomas Edward Richardson.



The St. Cloud Fire Works Committee Board - April 03, 2023 at 09:20 AM

FF

“ *From the Volunteers at Freedom Flight purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Thomas Edward Richardson.*



---

**From the Volunteers at Freedom Flight** - April 02, 2023 at 05:37 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Richardson.*



---

April 02, 2023 at 01:52 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Richardson.*



---

March 31, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Ryan Richardson** - March 31, 2023 at 01:07 PM