



Thomas W. Sparks

December 5, 1958 - March 20, 2023

Thomas William Sparks, 64, of Indian Head died unexpectedly Monday March 20, 2023 at Allegheny General Hospital Pittsburgh, surrounded by his loving family after complications from his recently diagnosed colon cancer. The immense light Tom brought into this world will be greatly missed.

Tom, or to many, "Pal" was born December 5, 1958 in Connellsville, PA, a son of Helen Sparks and the late William Sparks of Indian Head. Tom was a loving husband, father, Pap, son, brother, uncle, and dear friend. He dedicated his life to his loved ones through his compassionate, boundless heart.

A lifelong resident of Indian Head, PA, Tom had a deep love for his mountain community and immense pride for being from the Laurel Highlands and its beauty. Tom was a graduate of Connellsville Area Senior High School Class of 1977, where he was crowned king of his class alongside his high school sweetheart and soulmate, Lynda. Tom was a member of the Falcon wrestling and football teams.

Tom has been a member of Saint Raymond of the Mountains Parish in Donegal Pennsylvania since his childhood, where he currently worked as caretaker. Tom took pride in this job, as he did in anything "he put his name on."

In addition to his work at the church, Tom and wife Lynda were the owners of Sparks Catering and West Side Jewelry. A love of working with his hands and capacity to solve any problem were the common threads of Tom's life, from learning carpentry as a child from his father and uncles, to heavy construction

on Pittsburgh's bridges, to running many kitchens, and always assisting his loved ones with projects.

Tom was an unpretentious man who thoroughly enjoyed the simple things in life. Among those was a morning paper, which he would have read front to back before most of us had even thought about waking up. Tom embraced the early hours, seizing the time to tend to his garden and tinker with projects, until at least 7am when finally he would fire up a tractor or leaf blower and wake up the neighborhood.

If it wasn't the sound of machinery, it was the sound of the Grateful Dead's music that brought joy to Tom's heart. Seeing the sea of people attending a Grateful Dead concert gave Tom a sense of hope about the world because as he said, "every walk of life could enjoy their music and get along." Tom was able to witness this joy this past summer with his family at his side finally sharing the experience with his children-something he always dreamed of. Tom's resonant voice would cut across any room, and without seeing him, you would already know he arrived. Any room he walked into would brighten with his presence because the chance to share Tom's light was a blessing.

Tom's love of cooking and sharing food started at home, where he was affectionately known for his early morning breakfasts. Taking his time to make a full spread every Sunday morning for anyone staying at his house was a simple joy he cherished. Tom used his love of cooking to feed and comfort the hearts of those in need. Whether it was a sick family member, those grieving, or a fundraiser, Tom would start rolling the meatballs, pinching pierogies, and making the chicken salad, pouring his heart into every ingredient.

Tom came from a large family, being one of eight, while his wife Lynda was one of eleven. Although the two melded a huge family, those near to the Sparks were close knit. One of the more profound relationships Tom honored in his life was that with his grandchildren Oliver and Lillian. Tom's role as a Pap was one the crowning achievements of his life, where he played an active role in watching his daughter's children flourish. He was dedicated to being involved in their lives, even attaining an iPhone so he could regularly chat on

FaceTime with Ollie.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife Lynda Peperak Sparks of 41 years; daughter, Elizabeth Arndt and son-in-law John, and son, Andrew Sparks; mother, Helen Nedrow Sparks; his grandchildren, Oliver and Lillian Arndt, his siblings, Deborah Ernesty and husband Ern, Monica Crocetti, Stephanie Huey and husband Barry, Timothy Sparks and wife Anna, and Trisha Sparks and husband Eric Whirlow; his in-laws, Rita Peters and husband Stephen, Barbara Wilbur, Charles Peperak and wife Susan, Darleen Durham and husband James, Donald Peperak and wife Kristi, Stephen Peperak and wife Desiree, Daniel Peperak and wife Kristin, Cynthia Peperak, Steven O'Donnell, and numerous nieces and nephews. Tom will be missed by his "grand-dogs" Betsy, Scarlet, and Migo.

Tom was predeceased by his father, William Sparks, sister, Trudy Sparks, brother, James Sparks, father-in-law, Andrew Peperak, mother-in-law, Jean Peperak, sister-in-laws Patricia Peperak and Arleen O'Donnell, brother-in-law, Paul Wilbur, and nephew, Nash Huey.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be made to the Greater Connellsville Wrestling Club (Attn: Jeremy Keslar, Treasurer 875 Indian Creek Valley Rd. Indian Head Pa, 15446) or St. Raymond of the Mountains Parish (170 School House Ln, Donegal, PA 15628).

Family and friends will be receive Friday from 1-8 PM in the Mark C. Brooks Funeral Home Inc. at the corner of Route 711 and 146 Municipal Building rd., Melcroft (724-455-2310), where Parting Prayers will be held Saturday at 9:20 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:00 AM, in St Raymond of the Mountain R. C. Church, Donegal, with Rev. Anthony Onoko as celebrant. Committal Services will be private.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **24**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mark C. Brooks Funeral Home, Inc.
146 Municipal Building Rd
Melcroft, PA 15462
(724) 455-2310
<https://www.brooksfhmelcroft.com>

Parting Prayers

MAR **25**. 9:20 AM (ET)

Mark C. Brooks Funeral Home, Inc.
146 Municipal Building Rd
Melcroft, PA 15462
(724) 455-2310
<https://www.brooksfhmelcroft.com>

Funeral Mass

MAR **25**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Raymond of the Mountain R.C. Church
164 School House Lane
Donegal, PA 15628

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas W. Sparks*

October 02, 2023 at 08:23 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 24, 2023 at 01:01 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 24, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 24, 2023 at 01:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 23, 2023 at 11:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 23, 2023 at 09:04 PM



“ *Tom, more of a brother than a cousin, I have always looked up to you. I've spent the last few days and nights reminiscing, I have so many stories to tell, times and adventures, laughs and tears, and stories of things we did that we wouldn't want our kids to do. We always had a special connection and even though we are apart, that connection will never be broken. God bless you my dear friend, see you later. Love, Mike*

Mike Sparks - March 23, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 23, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 23, 2023 at 01:17 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 23, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ *Will always remember laughter and fun when it comes to Tom. Aviator glasses turned upside down never failed to make me laugh until I cried!! Tom and Lynda, two of my favorite high school chums who found each other a remained an indomitable force. Rest in peace, my friend. My prayers will remain for Lynda, your children and grandchildren. One of my favorite people! Shalom*

Greta Stewart - March 23, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ *I'm so broken to hear this 😞💔 Tom always treated me like family and I'm so sorry lynda 😞 Many prayers for the whole Sparks family and Peperak family during this time of loss 🙏🙏💔😞 Much love to you all ❤️*

Lisa Rice - March 23, 2023 at 11:17 AM

DF

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. May your cherished memories bring you much comfort. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Sending much love to you. Elaine and Donna Fosbrink

Donna Fosbrink - March 23, 2023 at 08:50 AM

DH

“ Our sympathies and prayers to Lynda and all of Tom's family. We go back a long ways with many great memories from high school and playing football together. Was always good to see him when we had the chance to meet. May he rest in peace. Dave & Kathy Herchko

Dave & Kathy Herchko - March 22, 2023 at 10:59 PM

LS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Lynda, your children, grandchildren, family and friends. I'll never forget sitting beside Tom in math class. RIP Tom.

Lisa Schrock - March 22, 2023 at 06:53 PM

MW

“ Tom, you will be missed greatly. You made a difference in our world. Always stepping up to help, and always wearing a smile. We love you and will miss you. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynda, Liz, Andrew, Aunt Helen and other family and friends ❤️🙏

Mark and Karen White - March 22, 2023 at 04:57 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 22, 2023 at 04:47 PM



“ *Will always remember Tom from school. Always had a smile on his face. Prayers for Lynda and his family.*

Janet McElfresh - March 22, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.*



March 22, 2023 at 04:08 PM



“ *I remember meeting Tom in 7th grade at Jr. High East. He was in my homeroom and into wrestling them. Very popular. Sending thoughts and prayers to Lynda and to the Sparks and Peperak families.*

Linda Tober - March 22, 2023 at 03:04 PM

CG

“ Sending sympathy and love to all Tom's family and loved ones. He will be greatly missed. It wasn't until a few years ago that I realized that my cousin was a fellow Dead Head. Fare you well. Chris

Chris Griger - March 22, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.



March 22, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.



March 22, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Sparks.



March 22, 2023 at 01:59 PM

ST

“ rest in peace Tom

Stoney - March 22, 2023 at 01:58 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of *Thomas W. Sparks*.



March 22, 2023 at 01:43 PM