



Thomas J. Harstad

December 29, 1949 - May 12, 2021

Thomas J. Harstad, 71, of Bloomington, IN passed away on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born December 29, 1949 to Harold and Florence Harstad in the small town of Oconto, WI. Tom attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and was drafted and stationed in Germany shortly after earning his degree in education in 1972. Upon his return home, he began working towards his Master's degree in Administration, while serving in the Illinois National Guard and teaching fifth grade.

Tom began his teaching career in Lawrenceville, Illinois, eventually becoming a principal for several elementary schools. It was here that he met and married his wife, Vicki and helped to raise her two daughters. Not only was he a loving and devoted husband and stepfather, Tom would also spend the next 30 plus years dedicated to his role as educator and administrator for Unit 20. Raised just 30 miles outside of Green Bay, he was the only boy of five children and a lifelong fan of his beloved Green Bay Packers. Having been a fan since the age of 5, Tom would often speak of waking up on his 18th birthday to find tickets to the infamous Ice Bowl of 1967. With a temperature of 13 degrees and a windchill factor of 40 below, Tom and his dad stayed snug wrapped in sleeping bags with smiles on their faces for the entire game. Tom was a joy to be around and was adored by many for his fun and kind-hearted disposition. Over the years he remained active, participating in several marathons, 10k and 5k races. He was a talented gardener, proficient story teller and lover of animals. He spent many days on the golf course trying to stay out of the sand

traps and often traveled up to Wisconsin for Packer games. He and Vicki eventually settled near one of their daughters in Bloomington, Indiana in 2008. They would spend their retirement visiting with neighbors, traveling to see family, and vacationing in Door County every summer. Tom and Vicki would have celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary this July.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Florence Harstad; sisters Mary Osmussen, Judy Derocher, and Patty Harstad; and brother-in-law Pete Derocher. He is survived by his wife, Vicki; step-children, Andrea Lagow (Shane) and Kristina Wolfe (Justin); grandson, Jackson Wolfe; sister Susan Bero (James), and several nieces and nephews and their children.

Details will be available in the following weeks regarding a celebration of life ceremony to honor Tom. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Wounded Warriors Project, <https://communityfundraising.woundedwarriorproject.org/campaign/In-Loving-Memory-of-Thomas-J-Harstad>

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences photos and memories may be shared with family and friends and family at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

SB

“ I know that it is over a year since Tom passed away, I just found out about it, Tom was my best friend at Oconto High School, and one of the few friends I had, i am so very sorry Tom is gone, we never got to reconnect after I left Oconto in 1969. Tome was a very wonderful person, and i am so sad about his passing.

Stephen M Bledsoe - June 12, 2022 at 04:42 PM

AL

Stephen-So sorry that I am just now seeing this. It is so wonderful to hear from you and of your friendship with Tom. He so valued his friends and spoke of you when reminiscing about the “good old days.” Please know that he would be so stoked to hear that you thought of him. Thank you again for taking the time to let us know how special he was to you.

Andrea Lagow - June 19, 2023 at 10:02 PM

B(

“ He gave me my first whoopin in school (5th grade) RIP

Billie Alexander (Reeder) - June 03, 2021 at 05:18 PM

AL

Billie, Thank you so much. Tom would have loved this story.

Andrea Lagow - June 16, 2021 at 07:54 AM

JF

“ Prayers to the family! Tom was a great guy!!

Jennifer Foster - June 03, 2021 at 10:25 AM

AL

Jennifer, Thank you so much.

Andrea Lagow - June 16, 2021 at 07:53 AM

KM

“ Tom was a neighbor growing up and also in my brother's class. He was always such a nice guy. My sympathy to his family!

Kathy McDougal - May 20, 2021 at 09:10 PM

KW

Thank you, Kathy. We love to hear from those who knew Tom ❤️

Kristina Wolfe - May 23, 2021 at 03:26 PM

VC

Vicki so sorry to hear about Tom. Really had some good times with you and him at school. Good friends

Vicki Clem - June 04, 2021 at 02:08 AM

AL

Vicki, Thank you so much for remembering Tom. He so enjoyed working with you and your friendship.

Andrea Lagow - June 16, 2021 at 07:52 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Harstad.



May 20, 2021 at 12:06 PM

BR

“ Our sincere sympathy to Tom's family. May God surround you with His love and peace as you mourn his passing and celebrate his life. We were Oconto friends of Tom and his folks. Their upstairs apartment was our first home. Brian and Rosemary Rice

Brian and Rosemary Rice - May 19, 2021 at 09:51 PM

KW

Thanks so much for sharing! ❤️

Kristina Wolfe - May 24, 2021 at 02:57 PM

AL

Thank you so much for remembering Tom. He often spoke of the families that became a part of his life when he was younger. Also, thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent to Mom. She so appreciated them.

Andrea Lagow - May 25, 2021 at 06:42 AM