



Thomas E. Wartenberg

MAR 11, 1946 - AUG 29, 2023



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Thomas E. Wartenberg

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Thomas Edward Wartenberg, age 77 of Millsboro, DE, passed away on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at Beebe Healthcare, in Lewes, DE. He was born on March 11, 1946, in Queens, NY, son of the late Manuel and Beatrice Wartenberg.

Tom grew up in Elmont, Long Island and attended Elmont Memorial High School. He made his living as the owner of LIM Systems International Insurance, but that is just a scratch on the surface of the legend that was Tom Wartenberg.

At 50 years old, Tom was delivered the devastating news that he had cancer and it was terminal. After many consultations with different doctors and experts, he found his own treatment based on a study at Stanford University. A doctor said to him, “don’t listen to the statistics, you’re either going to make it or you’ll die. Tom found his own doctors and decided to roll the dice, and defying all odds, he won. He beat the “terminal” cancer and lived another 28 years. Given this miraculous opportunity, Tom chose to live every day to its fullest.

Tom thoroughly enjoyed exercise (no, really, he did) and did Zumba and other workout routines every day. He appreciated fine watches, cars, and shoes. Tom had the world’s largest collection of hotel keys, and he may or may not have been arrested for it at one time (we will neither confirm nor deny this). He LOVED to eat; a self-proclaimed foodie, he even had memberships to different country clubs JUST for the dining opportunities. Tom was a faithful Philadelphia sports fan, remaining particularly loyal to his Eagles and Phillies. He loved hosting a good party and was a connoisseur of wine and scotch. Tom tried not to take life’s gifts for granted, and he sure didn’t miss out on much. More than all this, he treasured those 28 extra years with those who meant the most to him. Tom was a caring and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was deeply loved by those who knew him and will be forever missed.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his brother, Jeff Wartenberg. He is survived by his beloved wife of 35 years, whom he met on a very lucky Friday the 13th, Michelle; his sons: Brett, Bob, Marc, and Matthew (Sarah); and his grandson, Ryan.



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Services will be private.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



Tribute Wall

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Judi Pfau lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

Tom, it was great to meet you through my brother Merv, and then to be included in parties that you had and of course the cruises that we also went on together. Nobody knows how to party like you did! I really enjoyed my times with you and Michelle and your family. Rest in peace man, you need the rest after all that partying!



November 20 at 7:15 AM



Susan J Latella shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dear Michelle, I just learned of Tom's passing and I am so deeply sorry that I did not learn sooner. Tom and I worked together at Colonial Penn way back in the early 1970's. I remember him being close friends at CP with Les Fogel and Arnold Ross. I was a young "whipper-snapper" fresh out of college, while Tom was already a key figure in our data processing department, yet he was always nice to me and would say hello. I remember being sad when I heard that he, Les and a few others left CP to form their own company and, I believe, to start a new AARP in Europe -- I believe that may have been the early genesis of Tom forming LIMS. We connected again in 2005, when he, Rosalie Grosso and I worked on putting together a Colonial Penn reunion, which was a huge success and we continued our friendship and contact via Facebook through the years. I will never forget that, although we were casual social media friends, the year that my husband passed away (2016) he invited me to your holiday party at your home in Cherry Hill. Although I was a stranger to most there, Tom and you were so welcoming and I enjoyed the gathering. It was clear that you and Tom attracted like-minded caring folks -- just like you. A regular poster on Facebook, like me, we frequently replied to each other's posts. The recent silence on Facebook is what alerted me to something having happened. Again, I am so deeply sorry for your loss of this very special man. May his memory be a blessing to you and your family, may in he rest in the arms of God, watching over you. God bless, Susan Latella



September 7 at 4:57 PM



Michelle Wartenberg November 29 at 12:01 PM

He always spoke highly of you and had fond memories



Tribute Wall

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Lisa Roese posted:

I am so very sorry, Tom was such a wonderful and funny man who will be remembered fondly.

October 27 at 4:07 PM



Teresa Demaio October 28 at 8:35 AM

Yes he was



Pat Spae posted:

Michelle, I'm so so sorry. Tom was so gracious and kind. Loved when he took aerobic classes. Appreciated all the lunches/dinners he took his staff back in the day. Hopefully he was able to go peacefully

October 27 at 9:13 AM



David Fogel posted:

I've known Tom my whole life - but he knew me even longer! When Tom and my dad (Leslie) were in the 3rd grade, Les was teased about his name and apparently Tom suggested there was nothing to do. His name is his name, but they could choose Leslie's son's name. So the two of them spent all of a recess period listing names, and they settled on David. One more... My dad taught me the rules of chess and Tom taught me some strategy at Les & Kate's wedding party. "Dave this is how I beat your dad at Chess!" At that point Dad walked up... "Dave, do not listen, he did not beat me at chess!" these two best friends talked trash about a boardgame - and they seemed to love the conversation about the game as much as the game itself. I am a fan of boardgames today - carried forward from them!

October 27 at 5:42 AM



Sarah Casalvera posted:

He's "walking on sunshine" now and I'll always remember him from Zumba since that was his favorite song! RIP Tom and show 'em how to do it in heaven!

September 27 at 4:48 AM



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Helen Flood posted:

I am so sorry to hear about Tom. I met him in zumba class. He was very friendly and my husband and I enjoyed joining him & Michelle for dinner one evening. He was a real survivor & he certainly did live life to the fullest! Our sympathies go out to Michelle & family.

September 17 at 7:23 AM



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Jonathon Hartman posted:

I loved reading the story of Tom's life. He always lived life to the fullest. I remember one of the first times that I met Tom. I was in junior high school when Tom and Michelle rolled into town to see my parents. Instantly, and even at a young age, I could tell that Tom would be one of the smartest and most caring men I would ever meet. I was having a hard time at school because of kids being kids. I honestly don't mind admitting that our family never came from money, but we were always humble, and my parents always made sure we were taken care of. Kids at school were teasing me because I didn't have the newest and greatest clothes. They teased me because of my cheap watch that was functional and did its job, yet wasn't the coolest on the market. Tom, being Tom, over heard the conversation and said as he reached for his wrist "try this on for size.... Roll in tomorrow with that on your wrist and see what they say". I had no idea what to say, but of course Tom loved a good challenge. When I joined the Air Force my first duty station was Fort Dix, New Jersey. Honestly I had no idea what I was in for other than my sister attended basic training in the same location. Tom loved his parties and loved entertaining, and we were invited to the Super Bowl party he was hosting at their house. I seriously had no idea what I was in for. That night Tom introduced me to something that would last a lifetime for me. He introduced me to fine food and scotch. He had conversation last about where the scotch came from, the hotel keys from Europe, and the caviar that he had flown in. It's a moment in time that will forever be held in my mind. I can't forget the conversations that felt as if they were yesterday. I knew I could always send a text and ask a question about investments or people that I was doing business with. He would always be honest and route me in the right direction. I never felt judged by Tom in the slightest. I always admired his intellect, integrity, and vigor for life and the things around him. Thank you Tom for instilling something in me that others may or may not know. A little bit of you drives me everyday. Thank you for being you..... we will all miss you in our own way.

September 7 at 4:57 PM



Trudean Morris November 10 at 5:56 AM

Michelle and family, may you cherish the many wonderful memories you have of Tom. I had the pleasure of meeting Tom a few times through working with Shell and he was very gracious. I have enjoyed the many stories Shell has shared with me at work of his adventures.



Teresa Demaio October 26 at 4:43 AM

Tom please forgive me. Say hello to Susan. I'll always love and remember you.



Michelle Wartenberg September 7 at 6:28 PM

Aww Jon ... thank you for sharing. He was amazing



Media

Thomas E. Wartenberg

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Susan J Latella shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 7 at 8:18 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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