



Thomas L. Darby Jr.

June 19, 1953 - January 31, 2021

Thomas (Tom) L. Darby Jr., aka Junior aka Papop, 67, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, New Jersey. He was virtually surrounded by his daughters and completely engulfed in love, with some of his favorite songs playing as he took his final breaths.

Tom was born on June 19, 1953. He was a caring and supportive father, a devoted, fun-loving and high-spirited Papop, a kind, compassionate and dependable friend. He was a supportive son and sibling, and an overall genuine one-of-a-kind person.

Tom will be remembered for his witty sense of humor, kind-hearted spirit and generosity, calm demeanor that could put anyone at ease, and a smile that would light up the room.

He will be remembered for his loud cheers while watching his kids play sports or coaching football, his love for the water and jet skis, his life-of-the-party demeanor, his positive outlook on life, and his overt love for music (Darby at the Dials).

When he wasn't taking beautiful photos of the sunrise, taking road trips to see his siblings out of state, building his camping trailer, or rooting for the Packers,

he enjoyed planning adventures with his forever partner in crime, and sidekick, his beloved granddaughter, Kayla. She was the sunshine of his life.

Tom is survived by his daughters, Taylor and Kelsey, his granddaughter, Kayla, his ex-wife, Kathy, his mother Kiku Darby, his siblings, June Darby, Ruth and Nils Eliason, May and John Sikora, Carol and Stephen Robinson, Liz Darby, David and Linda Darby, and many adoring nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Thomas L. Darby Sr.

He attended Monmouth Regional High School, where he showcased his love for theater and sports, and Monmouth University and coached Pop-Warner and High School football.

While our hearts will never be quite the same, and the sunrises may never seem quite as bright, we will keep his memory alive, celebrate his beautiful life and legacy, be the best people we can be, and simply enjoy life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations to the National Kidney Foundation (30 East 33rd Street New York, NY 10016) be made in his honor. Tom was an avid advocate for living kidney transplants and a 2-time kidney transplant recipient himself, blessed by his real-life heroes Nils, David, and Delma.

No formal services are planned at this time. There will be a gathering for friends and family at a later date to celebrate Tom's beautiful life.

He always signed his e-mails with a quote, "we are all angels with but one wing, when we embrace we fly" - his uplifting outlook on life transcended beyond a written message.

Cemetery Details

All other services are private

Tribute Wall

FC

“ Thomas was “the Best.” Always level headed and clear thinking. Remarkably mature throughout his youth.

Tom gave me one of my first jobs installed gutters for his entrepreneurial business, for which I always appreciated as I learned a lot.

Always known as “Junior,” Tom’s portrayal of “the Cowardly” Lion in the Monmouth Regional High School Senior Class Play of “The Wizard of Oz” brought everyone to great laughter, stole the show , was most memorable and easy was a feature in the School Yearbook. I still laugh at his great performance, he was better than the Bert Lahr, the original film star.

Tom was always of high moral and character.

My sincere condolences to his entire family and loved ones from his former neighbor and friend to his brother, David.

God must have needed a buddy to summon Tom home so soon.

Thanks, Tom for being such a good example of manhood while I was growing up with him and his family.

You were a blessing to all who had the privilege of being around you.

Francis G. Clax

Francis G. Clax - December 04, 2025 at 04:54 PM

PS

“ I worked with Tom in the early 1980s as a high school student, and quickly became friends with him and his wife. He was the absolute best and I have thought of him often over the years. I just came across an old insurance policy with his name on it and decided to look him up. So sorry to hear of his passing, I wish I could have reconnected with him. From what I've read he never changed from being the kindest man around. Condolences to all who love him.
Patty Amicosante (Shepard).

Patricia Shepard - October 21, 2024 at 02:08 PM

BW

“ Tom and I first met in 1994 when he walked into California Insurance Co. in Monterey, Ca representing Equifax. Our relationship developed over the years well beyond one of business into a great personal friendship. Whenever he got to the West Coast, and whatever company he was representing, he always made time to come visit me in Monterey, and we enjoyed laughter, lunch, stories of kids and grandkids, and later our adventures in the kidney transplant bond that we shared. He was one of a kind, and I will miss him dearly as I know his family will as well. He always left me with the same words as he left my door "Be well my friend" and I knew he meant it from the heart. Back at ya' friend - I know God has restored your health now.

Bob Winn

Bob Winn - February 22, 2021 at 01:06 PM

Echo
Tango

“ I am so very saddened by this. I don't think I can add much more than what's been written. Yeah, hugging me and saying 'Love you Brother.' He loved his family, his daughters, his granddaughter, and his friends. I'm happy that I was one of his many friends, grateful for his friendship and laughter over 20+ years.

My deepest condolences to his family and friends. I miss you, buddy.

Love you, Brother.

Ed Trautwein



Echo Tango - February 10, 2021 at 09:43 PM

DF

“ Tom was my loving neighbor that I will never forget . We shared bike rides and meals together and plenty of laughter . He had a heart of gold and I truly miss not seeing him sitting at his window . Fly with the Angels my friend ! I love you ❤️



Debbie Fullam - February 08, 2021 at 02:48 PM

LB

“ I feel very blessed to have known Tom. He put a smile on your face no matter how bad your day was. I never heard him speak ill of anyone, he would always look for and find the good in everyone.

My condolences to the Darby family at this sad time.

Heaven got one hell of an angel to watch over us all.

Loree Schibell Bush

Loree Schibell Bush - February 06, 2021 at 01:30 PM

JP

“ My condolences to Tom’s family at this sad time. I’ll always remember his infectious smile and his positive attitude. He could light up any room he walked in. I will miss his unexpected texts of pictures and videos of the Jersey shore with the sun rising. Always sending beautiful photos with blessings for a wonderful day. He adored his family. Taylor and Kelsey were the light in his heart and Kayla sparked it to beat faster! Rest In Peace my good friend.

Joyce Prior

joyce prior - February 04, 2021 at 11:56 PM

JR

“ Tom Darby "Darbs" was one of the kindest (if not the kindest) person I will ever know. Tom has been a dear friend of mine since 1995. My condolences go out to his daughters Taylor and Kelsey. He loved his family so much and always talked about his granddaughter Kayla.

Tom was one of a kind. When we spent time together, he would always hug me and tell me "Love you brother" when he first saw me, then he would repeat that when he left. So now I just want to say to him, I will never forget you and I love you brother and always will. RIP.

John Rimmer - February 04, 2021 at 02:02 PM

BM

“ Kathy and I send our condolences to the Darby family. Tom will be greatly missed. He was always a pleasure to be with and lots of fun. When I was with Tom, I felt that I was with Mr. Jersey Shore--He knew everyone! Everyone will miss him dearly. RIP, my friend. Bill and Kathy Martin

BILL MARTIN - February 04, 2021 at 09:07 AM

CF

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the Darby Family



christina fears - February 04, 2021 at 04:15 AM

DT

“ We first met "Darby" through our friends, John and Toni. From this first encounter we realized how special he was. It did not take long to be pulled into his sincere and fun loving personality. We shared Sunday brunch at his favorite restaurants, dinners at John and Toni's home and our home as well. Always thinking of others Darby would arrive at our home with flowers, candy, and gifts not just for the hostess but for all the ladies at the celebration. One time he brought an exotic mushroom, one which I had never seen or heard of before. Darby gave us a lesson on how to cook it. He was right. It was delicious. Darby always made a point of admiring our seasonal decorations in our home and enjoyed talking about gardening. We most enjoyed hearing his adventures with his roof top camper for his Subaru and how he was planning on taking trips with his granddaughter. His eyes would light up and a smile would appear on his face each time he mentioned Kayla's name. Our hearts are truly saddened by Darby's passing. We feel so fortunate to have known him and will always remember him as a man who always lifted our spirits and made us laugh. Our deepest condolences and prayers are with you as you move through this very difficult time.
Dick and Terri Tuliszewski

Dick and Terri - February 03, 2021 at 09:51 PM

TC

“ Tom or "Darbs" as we called him was one of our dearest friends. He always showed up for dinner with flowers and dessert from his favorite place. He was one of the kindest and caring human beings I have ever met. He never forgot our birthdays and always made sure we celebrated. I could go on and on about this beautiful man!!! Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kelsey, Taylor and Kayla, who were his entire life, as well as his entire family. He talked about you with nothing but love and adoration in his eyes. Always so proud of your accomplishments. Our hearts are broken over his passing, but he will now be looking down on all of us and guiding us through this crazy world. We love you always Darbs!!! Toni and John

Toni Coffman - February 03, 2021 at 09:23 PM

MM

“ Margo Mann lit a candle in memory of Thomas L. Darby Jr.



Margo Mann - February 03, 2021 at 07:07 PM

CP

“ I have such amazing memories of Tom kidding and joking around with my parents at our house in New Jersey when I was a child. Tom always had the warmest smile and most welcoming personality. My heart breaks to know that he is no longer with us in this world... his light will shine on in those of us who he touched with his gentle soul.

Cynthia M Liutkus Pierce - February 03, 2021 at 03:22 PM

JS

May He Rest In Peace, Earth Has No Sorrows That Heaven Can Not Heal. We grew up together, played together, went to school together, Great Guy. Heaven Has Another Angel. Bless The Family

Jerome V Stevens - February 03, 2021 at 04:47 PM

LV

“ I am so saddened by the loss of a wonderful man and friend. He was so caring and very much loved. So many great memories. Prayers for Tom’s family 🙏❤️

Linda States VanLeer - February 03, 2021 at 03:09 PM

JR

“ Tom always had his infectious smile even at 4:00AM when we got to work. He was a kind considerate person who truly cared about anyone he came in contact with.

John Reagan - February 03, 2021 at 02:59 PM

PD

“ My sympathies to Tom's family. Tom's smile lit up the room and his sense of humor was a delight. He was a fabulous neighbor and friend. He will be remembered fondly.

Pat Dorsey - February 03, 2021 at 02:32 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Thomas L. Darby Jr.



Bongarzone Funeral Home - February 03, 2021 at 01:52 PM

DC

We are so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Tom was the life of the party during our Riveredge Road neighborhood gatherings. We have many fond memories of Tom and are blessed to have known him.

Brian and Donna Cassidy

Donna Cassidy - February 07, 2021 at 08:38 PM