



Thomas Vernon Dameron

February 22, 1943 - September 17, 2020

Tom Dameron, beloved husband of Judy Dameron (née) Strzalko for 53 years, left this earth to reunite with his cherished daughter, Megan, and his twin brother, Jerry, who predeceased him.

He is survived by dearest son Christopher (Dawn), and cherished grandchildren, Rowan and Cullen. Tom was dear brother to Joan Carson (the late Douglas), Jerry (Rosemary), John, (Denise) Dameron and Karen Barlow (Tom). He is also survived by sister-in-law Sandra White (Jim) and several special nephews and nieces , and dear friends.

Tom deeply loved his family, teaching second and third grades for 30 years and his real estate endeavors. He was an artist who always “ dressed up “ store bought “Birthday, Get Well or Thinking of You” cards that Judy would send. All looked forward to receiving his special greetings.

In his younger days, Tom enjoyed playing guitar, singing loudly every chance he got whether at a school hootenanny or Sunday mass . He had so many unique life experiences. He started by “punching cows” on his Uncle’s ranch at age 16 and continued to relive the experience throughout his life. Years later, he and Judy traveled extensively through Europe, Asia and Africa.

His happiest times were spent helping a fellow teacher, or neighbor who had a

problem with a class, a computer, car, engine or machine sometimes calling on brother John for assistance. Spending time with the kids, gardening, writing, sailing and trying to spot humming birds were his passion, later followed by an interest in Genealogy.

Tom will be missed beyond words. He was so loved by family, friends and neighbors whose lives he touched even when his health was fading. His always unfailing love and care for Judy, Chris, Megan, Dawn, Rowan and Cullen will never be forgotten.

A memorial celebration of life will be held at a later date due to Corona Virus restrictions.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Vernon Dameron*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Thomas Vernon Dameron*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *Judy, I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing, he was a great guy with a smile to boot! I will be thinking of you these next few days- love ya, Pete Long*

Pete Long - September 21, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Thomas Vernon Dameron.*



September 21, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ *Oh, Judy, I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was such a great guy. I will always remember his laugh. You two were the best neighbors anyone could have.*



Susan Heierman - September 21, 2020 at 07:27 AM

CF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Charlene Fisher - September 20, 2020 at 12:05 AM

CF

*Dear Judy, I share this photo of Tom with you because this is back when I first met him. He and Jerry his twin were part of our 'great gang' that hung around and grew up during our years at St. Mary's High School in Royal Oak. I am thankful I had a chance to visit with Tom off and on through our years after high school. He loved you and his family dearly and he always seem to know when to drop me and email to cheer me up. How did he ever know?...his timing was always perfect. He share his garden with me one evening when I was invited to your home for dinner. He was so very proud of all his flowers and they were in full bloom as we walked around the backyard. May he Rest in Peace with Our Lord. You and your family will be in my Heart and Prayers as you deal with this great loss of your husband and best friend.
Best Regards, Charlene*

Charlene Fisher - September 20, 2020 at 12:54 AM

RL

“ *Judy so sorry to here about Tom. You two were the most special couple. We will miss his smile and positive attitude. Ron and I send our love and sympathy. Evonne and Ron Lipski*

Ron and Evonne Lipski - September 19, 2020 at 10:21 PM

JC

“*Mary Anne and I grieve the passing of Tom, one of the most unique persons we have ever met. Tom was an outstanding teacher (he taught our sons Joe and Kevin) but his teaching skills transcended the classroom: husband, father, writer, colleague, and friend. We learned so much from his many stories about his adventures and travel. He was incredibly adaptable to almost any circumstance and event because he possessed the kind of humility rarely seen these days. We know there is an empty space in Judy's heart right now as well as in all his family members. Please know that you are all in our prayers and thoughts. We will try to keep his memory alive by emulating his unique love of life and his great enthusiasm for connecting with other people. May God hold him in the palm of His hand. RIP.*



John and Mary Anne Callaghan - September 19, 2020 at 06:55 PM

NM

“*Tom's sudden passing is very sad. Having taught with Tom for many years it was evident he loved sharing a good story and playing an occasional trick on a fellow teacher, like hiding Baldy a beanie baby from its rightful owner. I am certain his former students, if they remember nothing else, will always remember the feeling of being loved he gave them. Praying for all those he left as he joins his dear precious Megan.*
Nancy MacDonald



Nancy MacDonald - September 19, 2020 at 11:33 AM

JD

“ I am Tom's surviving brother John, his junior by 10 years, and would like to mention some things not included in his obituary.

Tom didn't do anything half-baked. When he had a new interest, he jumped in with both feet and usually gained expertise. When he became a salesman at a young age, he learned all the tricks of the trade

and could close any deal. He taught many many of us the "Art of the Deal" and knew at least 25 "closing" techniques on which he could draw when dealing with a particularly tough sale. His abilities were

well recognized by his real estate peers and gained him inclusion in the "Million Dollar Round Table" and the "Who's Who" of Real Estate as well as of Education. He was very proud of these

accomplishments.

Mentioning the other chariot my Ben-Hur-like brother rode, as an educator, he taught

3rd graders for many years and instilled in even the most irascible of them the desire to read books and do mathematical computations in their heads that most of us can't do with a calculator. He came up

with a system of teaching these techniques so that every single student in every single 3rd grade class he shepherded knew them by rote by the time they went to the next grade. I witnessed this as a guest in

his classroom on more than one occasion.

Tom was appreciative of the finer things in life, and literally gave me my beginning knowledge and love of art and music, enough so I could run with the ball and create a 45- year professional career in music

and the ability to sketch with perspective and shading served me in my career as a CAD design engineer. He and I attended the Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Faberge at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

At E.F. McDonald travel agency, Tom was their graphic artist and created many displays and layouts for Travel Agency windows and magazine ads, saying "Fly E.F. McDonald and Pan American" and so on. Later, Tom and his wife, Judy would get to see some of the places advertized. Once on the Seine river in Paris, Tom handily took 1st place in a painting contest as they motored past Notre Dame cathedral. Tom is one of a few people who walked through King Tutankhamun's tomb

and actually understood most of the objects he saw.

My brother had many life-experiences which he could relate in a way that made you feel you had been with him. Some of these included being an actual cowboy on my Father's half-brother's ranch in

Oklahoma. (ref. Uncle George H. Boyd).

Along with Tom's twin, my other accomplished brother, Jerry, Captain in the Sterling Heights Fire Department, Tom attended RETS electronic schools, and when he was finished with this and moved on to

other interests, I was the lucky inheritor of his manuals from which I learned all I know about repairing nearly any electronic device today. "Tuck" or "Pyunk" (pajak - spider in polish), his nicknames, between

us, earned double Masters degrees in his academic career. He was fluent in Spanish laguage, which served him and his lovely wife Judy in their considerable world travels.

We all worked side by side in my father's tool and die shop in Royal Oak, cutting oil, mixed with sweat, dripping off of our elbows in July, while we operated drill presses, lathes, broaches on Fruehauf brake

slack adjusters, and welded brake and clutch pedals for the famous Ferguson tractor and very close tolerance Ross pneumatic valve bodies.

Thomas and I enjoyed many breakfasts together near the end of his life, and we spoke of many interesting and comical things, as well as grave subjects. I often urged him to write the "Head Math" book,

comprising the techniques he'd taught so many.

I can see him now, restored, tall gritting his teeth and shirtless, whipping the spinnaker sail into submission with gloved hands, while correcting his posture on a 30 degree angle to the heeling hull as it glides

past the other contenders in Heaven's Yatch race, and taking the 1st place. My big brother, non-toxic masculinity at i

John Dameron - September 19, 2020 at 09:00 AM

CM

Dear John, Thanks so much for sharing so much more of your memories of Tommy with us readers. I thought that his obituary was one of the best ever, and then I read your tribute. The Dameron Family is a very blessed group and we all can envy its members, with special credit to Joanna and Tom. Your sister Joanie and I have been close friends since first grade in 1946, a true blessing to my life. God bless you all.


Clairellen Collom McLaughlin - September 19, 2020 at 07:14 PM

TD

John, you have written a beautiful tribute to your brother. I learned so many new things about Tommy and cherish them all.
Thayis

Thayis Dionne - September 20, 2020 at 12:11 AM

DH

“ *Cousin Tommy will be remembered for many terrific qualities, and especially for his great love of family and wonderful sense of humor*
.... 

Diane Homrich - September 18, 2020 at 05:12 PM

PS

“ *It’s almost impossible to share just one memory of Tom... he was such a superb man... so funny, so friendly, so inclusive... the last time I saw him was a run in at Barnes & Noble and we sat and had coffee and talked and talked... he will certainly be missed. So very sorry to hear of this huge loss.*



Paula Stoutet - September 18, 2020 at 05:06 PM

RC

So sad to hear this news. Tom was a bright spot at our school- always cheerful and encouraging. In my single days I was having trouble with car repairs and he and another teacher went with me to the dealership to iron out some problems after a busy day at school. That meant so much. He love each one of his students and they knew it. He will certainly be missed.

Ruth Curtice - September 18, 2020 at 05:40 PM

ND

My favorite memory is of Megan perched on Tom’s knees as he sang “Sun high, moon low, strumming on my banjo” as he raised her arms and lowered them, then up and down in a strumming motion. They would laugh and cuddle. So much love. He was the best father and husband, and friend to so many. He cared.

Nancy Dundas - September 18, 2020 at 07:35 PM

LS

Sadly, our world lost a crazy, loveable, gentle soul. I got my job at Ojibwa because of Tom and we became teaching partners and friends for many years. One of my many favorite memories is the Friday Hootenannies Tom led on Fridays for our 3rd graders and how we used the Beatles’ lyrics to teach poetry. He was such a talented and creative soul. I also will always remember his never-ending energy and willingness to help anyone who needed it. I’m sure than anyone who ever knew Tom is better because of it and will miss him dearly.

Linda Seidel - September 18, 2020 at 08:13 PM

MC

So Sad to hear this news about Tom. He will be greatly missed by all of us who ever knew him and worked with him. I worked with him in second grade for many years. We always had lots of interesting discussions at lunch and he was always full of jokes and great stories. I will always remember how patient he was with some of the hardest to handle students in his classroom as well as the tenderest care and attention he had toward his own daughter. He loved his family and whenever I would see him after we retired he always shared pictures of his grandsons. Tom-you will be missed by so many people you have touched over the years!!

Mary Carter

Mary Carter - September 18, 2020 at 11:22 PM

CF

I am so sad to hear of Tom's passing. He certainly was full of energy. We both taught for a few years in 3rd grade at the same time. He was always very helpful. We became friends as well as work partners. The kids loved Tom. He made them laugh every day!!! Tom had amazing energy. He was quite the prankster. He would hide in a closet and jump out when I opened the door. We had so many laughs! Of course, I always had to get even. Tom had a big heart, and a soft spot for kids. I am so sorry that Tom has passed. When I think of him, I will remember the good times that we all had. I also will remember how he always had a new joke to tell us. I will miss him. Rest In Peace, my friend!!! Cindy Freeman

Cindy Freeman - September 19, 2020 at 09:00 AM

DC

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of my cousin Tom. I lived in the neighborhood with him and his beautiful wife Judy and their sweet little Megan and was honored to be able to babysit her at times . She was so like her dad always smiling. He had just reached out to me recently with such kind and comforting words as only Tom could do. I will miss you my dear cousin and kiss my Stephen when you see him Rest in Peace

DIANE CLARK - September 19, 2020 at 02:10 PM

DM

Though I've only met my cousin Tom a few times in my life, my memories of him are that he was very kind, talented, and humorous. So sad to hear of his passing. Much love and condolences to his family and friends. ❤️

Diane Mertens-Maxham - September 19, 2020 at 05:31 PM

VT

Judy and family, Den and I were so sorry to hear about Toms passing. We loved our brief times with him, he always brought a smile to our face..

Den loved talking to him about sailing. He was a man of many talents. He will be sorely missed. Our only comfort is he is with his little angel Megan. May he Rest in Peace.

Valerie Trythall - September 20, 2020 at 09:52 AM

AB

We did not have the privilege of knowing Tom Dameron, but wish to send our condolences to his family. We are close to his sister and know how much she loved him. May you all find consolation in knowing he is with God.

Tom Morson and Alice Brunner

Alice Brunner - September 20, 2020 at 07:08 PM

CM

Dear Judy, my heart goes out to you and your dear family. Tom's obituary is well written. It touched my heart. ...what a good man... You will be remember in my prayers. May God grant you His comfort. Love, Catherine Milanowski. ... and my dear Paul

Catherine and Paul Milanowski - September 22, 2020 at 11:15 PM