



Thomas Kendro

October 13, 1965 - March 7, 2023

Thomas Francis Kendro, of Sterling Heights, MI, passed away at home on March 7, 2023, following a more than yearlong battle with cancer. Despite an impossible road, he never lost his faith and humor, and he faced each challenge with courage until the end.

Tom was born to George and Patricia (Oberliesen) Kendro on October 13, 1965, in Detroit, MI. The youngest of five children, he grew up with many aunts, uncles, cousins, and relatives around. It would have been easy for him to find a quiet place in the family, but Tom quickly became a favorite with his charisma, kindness, and quick wit. He was a talented athlete, playing football, baseball, and basketball during his years at Detroit Country Day. He spent many fun years at Michigan State University, ultimately receiving his B.S. in Turfgrass Management in 1994.

Tom met his future wife Colleen Walsh through the Rochester Jaycees in 1992, and they married at St. Rene in Sterling Heights on May 21, 1994. Their family grew to include children Kelly, Jena, and Kevin, as well as five wonderful dogs over the years. His strong Catholic faith shines through as he frequently volunteered at St. Anne, a familiar face at the annual Sausage Festival and Fish Fry, as well as in the parish Men's Club. With no background in soccer, he still stepped up to coach his kids and their friends on St. Anne teams for several years through Warren Youth.

For over 30 years, Tom worked as a sales engineer at NuAir Fluid Power in Walled Lake. He found great success as a hard worker who prioritized the personal connection above the sale. He put his degree to good use as a seasonal weekend rep for The Scotts Company, where he made more lifelong friends.

Tom was a man of many talents and hobbies. He enjoyed playing adult hockey and softball with friends for several years as an adult, described by teammates as the heart of his team. He also enjoyed his annual summer work as an umpire for Sterling Heights Softball leagues. Through good times and bad, he rooted for his teams: Tigers, Lions, Wings, and Spartans. Tom's voice is familiar to many radio listeners across Metro Detroit. He frequently called in, entering and often winning contests, and he achieved his ultimate goal in 2011: winning a trip to Disney World for the family. His love for all things Mickey is well-known to all who knew him. In more recent years, he cherished time spent walking his dogs and taking them to the bark park. He loved his family and was immensely proud of his children.

Tom is survived by his wife (Colleen), children (Kelly, Jena, Kevin), and two beloved dogs (Minnie and Luna); siblings Mike, Anne (Frank), Bill (Lynn), and Kate; brothers and sisters-in-law Helena (Jim), Jane, Dan (Pam), Kevin, Carl, and Anne Marie (Paul); Uncle Pete and Aunts Kate, Barb, and Jan; many nieces and nephews and many more cousins, great-nieces and nephews, and extended family; friends across the world; and countless lives that he changed for the better. He was preceded in death by his parents; Uncles Jim, Tom, Rudy, Rich, John, and Al. Aunts Mick, Susan, Penny, Mary, and Sheila; and his three beloved dogs.

Visitation will be Friday, March 10, 2023, from 3pm to 8pm (rosary at 7:30) at E. J. Mandziuk Funeral Home, 3801 18 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48314.

Instate will be on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at 9:30 am until the funeral service at 10:00 am at St. Anne Catholic Church, 32000 Mound Rd., Warren, MI 48092. Internment at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please pet your dogs and keep Tom's spirit alive through your kindness, service, and humor.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 10. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Scripture Service

MAR 10. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Rosary

MAR 10. 7:30 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate

MAR 11. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church
32000 Mound Rd
Warren, MI 48092

Mass of the Christian Burial

MAR 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne Catholic Church
32000 Mound Rd
Warren, MI 48092

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Kendro*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *I miss you Tom. Sorry we drifted over the years, but it was great getting to know you again these past couple months. Just wish I had gotten to see you again. Rest easy my friend.*

Steve Mortlock - March 14, 2023 at 12:45 AM



“ *I met Tom through my brother Rick when they went to MSU together. He was always so kind and funny. Tom always had the biggest smile. They loved their hockey and was a great all around person. Tom came to see me for a haircut during Covid so that was a great catch up with him. We talked about his wife and children and his dogs. My deepest sympathy to the family may he rest in peace such a great guy gone to soon.*

susan Blaisdell - March 12, 2023 at 10:46 AM

DR

“ Tom and I went to DCDS together. I really got to know Tom when I was the stat keeper of the baseball team. Tom was kind, compassionate, faithful, and had a great sense of humor. We shared a friendly rivalry between Oxford and Clarkston. He was so proud of his nephew and his accomplishments on the football field. We loved going back and forth about the teams. I will forever be grateful to Tom for his friendship. When my nephew, dad and the Oxford shooting all happened within 2 days, Tom reached out to me and offered his support. This gesture meant more to me than he will ever know. Sending prayers to his family and friends. Until we meet again my friend!

Diane Regan - March 11, 2023 at 05:09 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas Kendro.



March 10, 2023 at 12:23 PM

MC

“ I went to Detroit Country Day, the same school as Tom. We were in different classes but always a friend, wonderful sense of humor but overall till today, such a great man of faith, a faith we mutually share. Tom, rest in peace, watch over us y I know one day I will see you again. God bless your family, loved ones. My sincere condolences on behalf of myself y my husband. Always will you be in my thoughts y prayers as I ask of you please to guide me forward. Myriam y Scott Cronk -

Myriam Cronk - March 10, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Thomas Kendro.*



March 09, 2023 at 06:49 PM



“ *Nuair Fluid power purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Thomas Kendro.*



Nuair Fluid power - March 09, 2023 at 04:22 PM



“ *Tom was a great father who loved his children. Super funny and always had a story to tell. But, most of all, probably the best soccer dad ball chasers that Bishop Foley ever had. "Team Foley!" Rest in peace brother, you will be great missed.*

Grobbel Family - March 09, 2023 at 04:17 PM



“ *The Causley Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Thomas Kendro.*



The Causley Family - March 09, 2023 at 02:21 PM

TF

“ *The Goldie Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Thomas Kendro.*



The Goldie Family - March 09, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas Kendro.*



March 09, 2023 at 01:05 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Thomas Kendro.*



March 09, 2023 at 12:13 PM