



THOMAS (TOM) LICHTENBERG

March 11, 1950 - September 25, 2014

Thomas “Tom” J. Lichtenberg, 64, of West Milford, NJ passed away at his home on Thursday, September 25, 2014 after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Tom was born on March 11, 1950 in Newark, NJ to Bernadette (Muller) and Gilbert Lichtenberg and grew up in Belleville and Nutley.

Tom earned his Master’s Degree at Montclair University.

He married Marilyn (Mann) in 1991 and together they raised their family.

Tom taught in various schools for over 35 years. Tom was a math teacher at the West Milford High School from 1981 until his retirement in 2007.

Tom was a Certified High School Official in field hockey, baseball, soccer, basketball, and softball and was the founder of the Bergen-Passaic All-Star Basketball games.

He was an active member of the Greater Paterson Old Timers Athletic Association,
previously serving as President and Secretary and was also an active member of the Passaic County Coaches Association.

Tom was instrumental in bringing Relay For Life (American Cancer Society) to West Milford and served as its first chairman. He also founded the Interact Club at West Milford High School.

Tom will best be remembered for his strong work ethic, dry sense of humor, and his desire to serve his community.

Tom was predeceased by his mother 2008 and his father in 2001.

He is survived by his beloved wife Marilyn, his loving son Michael Lichtenberg, his dear stepchildren Colleen M. Dorfman Saar, and Thomas E. Dorfman; his cherished grandchildren Dakota and Elena Saar, and Robby Dorfman; his sister Jeanmary Zekus and his brother Robert Lichtenberg; and his nieces Jessica Seibert, Andrea and Kathryn Zekus, Anna Marie Lichtenberg, and Christina Lee.

The family will receive visitors on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 from 2-4pm and 7-9pm with a prayer service at 8:30 pm during the last half hour of the visitation at the Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home, 187 LaRue Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (GPS use 1 Post Place).

Memorial donations may be made in Tom's name to the American Cancer Society, P.O.Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 30. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home
187 La Rue Road
(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)
Newfoundland, NJ 07435
(973) 697-6700
info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com
<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

Viewing

SEP 30. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home
187 La Rue Road
(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)
Newfoundland, NJ 07435
(973) 697-6700
info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com
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Prayer Service

SEP 30. 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

BR

“ Dear Marilyn and all the Lichtenberg family,

I was so sorry to hear about Tom's death and your loss. I had not known of his illness (clearly I have not been keeping up with the West Milford news) and as I am rarely on Facebook (and don't look for my news there) and don't get the paper in which the obituary was printed, I didn't find out about his death until it was too late for me to attend his wake. I am very sorry about that, as I would have liked to have shown support for you Marilyn at that time. I know from personal experience how difficult this kind of loss is and how important the support of others at the Wake is.

In any case, although I did not know Tom personally, I knew him through the fact that you loved him and knowing you, I know you would only love an extraordinary man. These postings clearly show him to be that extraordinary man. You are an extraordinary woman who has given a great deal to our town. Tom was willing to share you, and you and your time with the town and your responsibilities to the town. He too must have understood how important this work was. Still, I also know from experience, what these responsibilities to a larger world take in the way of time and energy and this is time taken from our loved ones and the time and energy we can devote to our own families. His encouragement and willingness to share you with this larger world shows his greatness of spirit and love.

I know he will be missed by many others but that will not make your grief any less. Any time you want to talk, to tell someone who was not already aware of Tom and his wonderful attributes about him, you have a willing and eager ear in me. It has been my experience that by sharing our love and memories of those that have gone on ahead of us, we allow our loved ones to live on and to thrive. I would love to hear more about Tom.

*With much love and sadness,
Brenda Gianni*

Brenda - October 06, 2014 at 02:33 PM

KD

“ I lived down the street from Tom on Greylock Parkway in Belleville and our parents were good friends. He was a great kid (never pulled my long hair like Bobby did!) and I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I know he will be greatly missed. Love from the entire Wormann family. Sincerely, Kathleen Wormann Deak

kathie deak - October 06, 2014 at 08:08 AM

MC

“ I was sorry to hear the sad news. Tom and I grew up together in Nutley. While over the many years I had lost contact with "T.L.", as we called him, I often remembered the things he said and did. Whether it was playing stickball in the playground, canoeing in Wisconsin, or a pick-up basketball game at St. Mary's gym, T.L. back then could make you laugh with his dry wit that cut through superficiality. My prayers and sympathy go out to the Lichtenberg family.

Mike Corey

Michael Corey - October 06, 2014 at 06:19 AM

AG

“ So sorry to hear, just found out. Played for "Coach" Lichtenberg at WMT HS from 1983-1986...so very active in everything he did and very passionate about it. Our prayers are with you and your family Coach. RIP

Andy Grilk (WMT HS Grad 1986)

Andy Grilk - October 04, 2014 at 07:32 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of
THOMAS (TOM) LICHTENBERG.



October 01, 2014 at 08:29 PM



“ Tom was a wonderful man. My family and I have known him for many years coming into the West Milford Diner that my family owns. For 18 years he would come in with his wife Marilyn and his son Mike. We really got to know the whole family. My father and Tom would pass jokes all the time. Every day Tom was at the diner for his morning tea and breakfast sandwich, and in the mid afternoon for his blueberry muffin that he would always joke around and say, "what happened to all the blueberries in my muffin?" I am especially thankful that just this past winter while my father was sick in the hospital, Tom drove with me a couple of times to see my dad and we got to have some great conversations. He was always so generous and always offered any type of help if anyone in my family or myself needed help. He also gave my son who was born August 2013 a set large set of baseball cards. He was such a thoughtful and loving man, and I know I am going to miss him greatly. I will never forget you and what an amazing guy you were. God bless your entire family and may you rest peacefully

Love,
Kat(The Brand Family)
George Smirgadis
Sonya Smirgadis
The Strickland Family

Kat Brand - October 01, 2014 at 08:07 PM

WE

“ *My deepest condolences to you all. RIP Mr. Lichtenberg.
Wendy Hollerback Class of 87 WMHS*

wendy - October 01, 2014 at 06:14 PM

GB

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My sympathies to you and your family.
You are in my prayers.
Gale Barth*

Gale Barth - October 01, 2014 at 10:56 AM

SS

“ *The Monks of Newark Abbey together with the Alumni, the
Students, and the Faculty and Staff of Saint Benedict's Preparatory
School, wish to express their sympathy to the family of the late
Thomas J. Lichtenberg '68, whose name has been added to the list
of our extended family for whom we pray daily in the Abbey Church
at Mass and the Divine Office.*

St. Benedict's Preparatory School - October 01, 2014 at 09:42 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memorial Video by Stickle-Soltesz Funeral
Home*



Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home - September 30, 2014 at 02:23 PM

MP

Absolutely stunning. Tom was such a peaceful, caring, honest man and one of the rare kids first coaches and teachers that West Milford ever had. He will be missed by so many. Maureen Peterson

Maureen Peterson - October 01, 2014 at 07:00 PM

CD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Colleen Dorfman - September 30, 2014 at 10:43 AM

CD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Colleen Dorfman - September 30, 2014 at 10:42 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of THOMAS (TOM) LICHTENBERG.



September 29, 2014 at 07:40 AM

CM

“ *Carol M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of THOMAS (TOM) LICHTENBERG.*



Carol M. - September 28, 2014 at 05:25 PM



Guillermo Saar

“ *The man was an upstanding, straight shooter in a world where that is so needed. You will be missed, sir.*

Guillermo Saar - September 28, 2014 at 02:42 PM