



Thomas Dwight Sanford

January 4, 1938 - March 31, 2021

Thomas D. Sanford, 83 of Milledgeville GA, formerly of Freeville NY, passed away on Wednesday March 31, 2021 in Milledgeville. Tom was born in 1938 at home on Asbury Rd. in Lansing to the late Benjamin E. Sanford, Jr. and Esther C. (Bishop) Sanford. Tom was the youngest son and the ninth of ten children. The family moved to different homes in and around Ithaca before settling 509 W. Clinton St.

Tom was a 1956 graduate of Ithaca High School and joined the US Navy afterwards. He was Honorably Discharged from active service in 1960. After returning home, he met and married the love of his life, Mary Howser in 1963. He joined the Ithaca Fire Department in 1966, retiring in 1987. When he was between shifts at the Fire Department, Tom drove delivery for Webster's Laundry and Angelo's Dry Cleaners. After his retirement from the city, Tom drove bus for the Dryden School District and then for Cornell Transit/TCAT, retiring after 10 years. In 2019 Tom and Mary made his dream of moving to the warmer south a reality, relocating to Milledgeville Georgia near their two daughters.

Tom enjoyed bowling with Mary at the Cortland, Dryden and Ithaca area lanes and on travel leagues, as well as competing in the NY State Senior Olympics. He also pitched horseshoes in local leagues and just for fun. Tom and Mary could also be found at their grandchildren's school plays, cheerleading, and sports. He was also an avid reader who passed the love of books on to his children. He enjoyed watching westerns, comedies, and James Bond movies.

Tom was well liked and could often be found having coffee, playing cards, or sharing a meal with family and friends. Tom never met a stranger, and he treated everyone equally. He had a good sense of humor and many have said that seeing Tom was a bright spot in their day.

In addition to his parents, Tom was predeceased by his brothers Benjamin (Eleanor) Sanford III, David Sanford, and Richard Sanford; sisters Esther Stark, Ginny (Ken) Murphy, Jean (Lloyd) Layaw, Jane (Albert) Williams, and Lana Boyer; mother and father-in-law Mary and Frank Howser; brother-in-law Franklin "Bud" Howser, Jr.; sisters-in-law Gail Blaker, and Linda Zimmer; and an infant son Joseph Paul Sanford in 1970.

Tom is survived by Mary, his wife of 57 years, and daughter Deborah Sanford of Milledgeville GA; son Thomas (Christina) Sanford, Jr. of Groton NY; daughter Laurie (William) Statham of Eatonton GA; grandchildren Jessica (Kerry) Clausen of Lock Haven PA, Benjamin (Kimberly Campo) Sanford of Groton NY, Timothy Sanford of Dryden NY, and Diana Kirkland of Eatonton GA; brother Gerald (Chrissy) Sanford of Wilmington NC; brothers-in-law Arthur Howser Sr. of Ithaca NY, Robert (Evelyn) Howser of West Point NE, and Glen (Lynda) Howser of Maryville TN; sister-in-law Donna Piotti of Troy NY; four step-grandchildren, and many, many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

It was Tom's request not to have a funeral service, so the family is planning a future get together where everyone can gather around, have some coffee and food, and reminisce about their fondest and funniest memories of Tom – just the way he would have liked.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that Memorial Contributions be made to The American Heart Association, or the charity of their choice

Condolences may be expressed online at: www.williamsfuneral.net

Williams Funeral Home and Crematory of Milledgeville, GA is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Private

Tribute Wall

DD

“ To Mary, Gerry, and the rest of the children,

I am sorry for your loss. I was a friend of Tom's from Central Fire Station, where Tom often worked, when I was a bunker for 2's Fire Company in Ithaca, NY.

My first memory of Tom is when he was a "paid man" and I was a bunker at Central. I was awakened one morning by a mop hitting my metal bunk several times. I peeked up from under my covers to see Tom standing over me with his mop and a big grin from ear to ear.

During my years at IFD as a volunteer, Tom and I became friends.

My condolences to the whole family and may Tom RIP.

*Dewey Dawson
Groton, NY*

Dewey Dawson - April 14, 2021 at 05:53 PM

CM

“ Mary, Debbie, Tommy and Laurie,
We are saddened to learn of Tom's passing. So many great memories of camping, coffee after bowling and our trip to Branson and Nebraska. Prayers for your comfort at this difficult time.

Clair & Nora Marquart - April 12, 2021 at 08:56 AM

PD

“ Mary, so sorry to read of Tom's passing. So many good memories with both of you. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Hugs my friend. With deepest sympathy. Pam Dollaway

Pam Dollaway - April 10, 2021 at 10:13 PM

CM

“ To Mary and family,
So sorry to read this news. He was lots of fun to bowl with at Cornell Lanes.
Always stopped for a visit in the aisles of the grocery store. Great guy!
Prayers,
Cindy McElwee

Cindy McElwee - April 10, 2021 at 08:22 AM

JG

“ Sorry for your loss. ! My prayers and thoughts are with u all,!

Jean gerbasi - April 09, 2021 at 09:35 AM

LR

“ Uncle Tom-all the wonderful memories of the time spent with you and your family are countless. Yes, they were 100 years ago but I still remember! You are greatly missed!

Liz Richey - April 09, 2021 at 08:53 AM

CA

“ Dear Mary,
So sorry to read of Tom's passing. What a peach of a guy, I so enjoyed seeing you both, thinking of you at this time Mary.
Charlie Armstrong

Charlie Armstrong - April 08, 2021 at 06:21 PM

LM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.*



Luther Minor - April 03, 2021 at 11:03 AM

LS

“ *I miss you, dad.*

Laurie Statham - April 03, 2021 at 08:46 AM