



## Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch

May 31, 2024

Thomas Joseph Wernoch (Tom), 57, passed away quietly on the morning of Friday, May 31, 2024 with family by his side. Tom was a fun-loving, caring, friendly, loyal, and empathetic husband, father, son, brother, friend and colleague.

Born in Elizabeth, NJ into the loving arms of the late Henry Joseph and Grace Wernoch (nee Kelly), Tom was raised in Somerville, NJ from the age of 6. He graduated from Immaculata High School in 1985. During his time at Immaculata, Tom was a motivated, involved, and active student. He made lifelong friendships through athletics as both a leader of the 1985 County Championship basketball team and the starting shortstop on the baseball team. Tom's friends from IHS remained his best friends who spent time together whenever possible and successfully ran a fantasy football league called "The Wyrd" for 35 years.

After a successful academic career at IHS, Tom attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Policy and Management Studies & Political Science. He had an impressive four-year basketball career as a versatile forward known for his passing and jump-shooting ability. Tom continues to hold the record for most assists by a Red Devil in one game with 12, while his record for most Consecutive Free Throws Made (28) was recently broken after 27 years. When this happened, Tom

personally reached out to the player who broke it and congratulated him.

In addition to basketball, Tom was a brother of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and was inducted into the prestigious Raven's Claw Society at the end of his junior year. This Society, founded in 1896, honors seven male students who have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, and service to the college and community during their first three years on the campus. Tom became very close to his "7" and they remained lifelong friends who came together, often with spouses and growing families, several times every year.

After his Dickinson career, Tom started a professional sales career at Glatfelter (now Pixelle) in Spring Grove, PA. He quickly worked his way to Regional Sales Manager and by 1999 he was promoted to Director of Sales for Book Publishing. Tom's responsibilities as Director continued to grow with the addition of carbonless and related printing papers. At every point throughout his career, Tom built a strong, successful team and earned the admiration of those he worked with as well as the customers he served. His professional life began and ended with Pixelle, where he commonly resolved conflicts and made others feel good.

Tom was a dedicated and loving husband to Wendy Byers Wernoch for 24 years. Together they raised two children, Adam (23) and Lily (21). Tom loved to entertain guests and hosted many gatherings throughout the year, most notably the holiday dinners with family and friends where he insisted that everyone share one large table which stretched across two rooms. His favorite holiday was Christmas, which always included numerous laughs watching National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. Tom was a great storyteller and knew how to make people feel special and comfortable in his home—he always remembered his guests' favorite food or drink and made sure it was on hand when they came to dinner. Tom's love and passion for his family were evident as he never missed Adam's games or Lily's performances.

Tom was an energetic and animated basketball coach. He began his coaching career as a varsity-level assistant to lifelong friend Michael Frauenheim at his alma mater Immaculata in 1999. His coaching style was direct, but he never hesitated to crack a joke and lighten the mood at practice. He always believed everyone had something to contribute and was often able to get the best out of his players. He emphasized the importance of layups and free throws; a mantra taught to him by his late father Hank. When he moved to Lancaster in 2007, his coaching shifted to the youth level where he coached Adam's basketball and baseball teams throughout his childhood. As Adam got older, Tom received the opportunity to once again coach basketball at a high level through Lancaster Cats AAU with friend and colleague Coach Doug Kraft. He coached players from many different high schools across the Lancaster-Lebanon league and loved traveling to various spring tournaments across the northeast. Tom cherished his coaching years and cared for his teams as if they were family.

In his free time, Tom enjoyed golfing, cooking, playing cards, and watching his New York sports teams in the Giants, Mets, and Knicks. When there wasn't a game on, he was often found scrolling through movies or the History Channel, and landing on one of the Jason Bourne films or a WWII documentary. On Fall Sundays, Tom would invite many neighborhood friends over to watch NFL games and partake in the friendly fantasy football banter that brought everyone great joy. He loved to travel, whether with family and friends or through work. This opened the door for many amazing opportunities including professional sporting events, concerts, and March Madness Final Fours.

Whether you knew him as Tommy, Ice, "T," Coach Wernoch, or Tom, he had a profound impact on those around him and will be forever missed. In lieu of flowers, Tom has requested that donations be made to the Christine Fox

Frauenheim Foundation at <https://www.christinefffoundation.com/>. Christine and Michael Frauenheim are dear friends of the Wernoch family. In the last month of Christine's life, she said to him, "Tommy, now we're fighting together."

Tom is survived by his loving wife Wendy, children Adam and Lily, sisters Susan (Ken) Troise, Annemarie (Jim) Hauschild, and Ellen (David) Frauenheim, brother Matthew Wernoch, in-laws Charles and Jean Byers, brother and sister-in-law Brent Byers and Bonnie Welcome, as well as 10 devoted nieces and nephews.

The entire Wernoch family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the UPenn Health Network, including the Ann B Barshinger Cancer Institute, and the Hospice & Community Care partners for their compassionate care for Tom during his brave and inspiring journey. We would also like to gratefully acknowledge the pastoral care provided by Father David Peck and Father Glenn Miller of Saint James. Everyone who contributed to his care will be engraved in our hearts forever.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint James Episcopal Church, 119 N. Duke Street, Lancaster on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. with Father David W. Peck officiating. A Viewing will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA, 17603 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and again at the church on Friday June 7, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The family will hold a private interment at a later date.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUN 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc  
528 W Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 394-5300  
admin@thegroffs.com  
<https://thegroffs.com/>

## Viewing

JUN 7. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church  
119 N. Duke Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church  
119 N. Duke Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

# Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernocho*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - June 05, 2024 at 07:40 PM

RM

“ *Wendy, Please accept my donation to the Christine Fox Frauenheim Foundation in memory of your loving husband. I worked with Tom as a customer and former Glatfelter employee. Tom was a gentleman and always a class act. He will be missed in the industry and lives on in our memories for now he is at peace.*  
*Rob Mauritz*

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**Rob Mauritz** - June 09, 2024 at 10:30 PM

EM

*Rob, saw your name and hope you might contact me at 717-887-1345.*  
*Elvin Myers*

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**Elvin Myers** - July 04, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DT

“ *Tom and his entire family were incredibly kind to us as our son Jacob made his transition to Hempfield to play basketball. We will always be grateful for his kindness and warm greetings.*

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**Dawn Tluczek** - June 08, 2024 at 12:21 AM

ST

“ I was so saddened to hear of Tom’s passing. I spent many years working with Tom at Glatfelter. He was always a kind and compassionate man. He was well respected in the industry. He always had a smile and took on business challenges head on to get the job done. Prayers for the family during this very difficult time.  
Sherri Tanner

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**Sherri Tanner** - June 07, 2024 at 05:09 AM

JK

“ We first met Tommy and his family in 1978 when we moved across the street from them in Somerville, NJ. It was a special neighborhood with many large families and children, including our own. They all went to the same school several blocks away and spent countless hours riding bikes and playing outside games such as “manhunt” on summer evenings. Our boys looked up to Tommy because he was such a basketball and baseball star; one summer he accompanied us on vacation to the Jersey Shore. We continued following his amazing sports career throughout high school and college. He and his family were special neighbors when they settled back in the old neighborhood; they were greatly missed when they later moved to Pennsylvania. He will always be remembered for his friendly nature, contagious smile and athletic ability. We send his family our prayers and heartfelt condolences.

*The Kowalski Family*

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**John B and Mary Sue Kowalski** - June 06, 2024 at 08:49 PM

PC

“ Tommy was one of the good ones. A real “salt of the earth “ kind of guy. I graduated with Tommy from Immaculata High School. So sorry for your loss. God rest his soul.  
Paul Crosby

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**Paul Crosby** - June 06, 2024 at 08:47 PM

JB

“ John B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

John B. - June 06, 2024 at 02:24 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



June 06, 2024 at 02:04 PM

TW

“ Tom was such a wonderful and fun loving person! When I first came to Glatfelter he welcomed me and quickly made me feel “welcomed” to the Glatfelter sales family! It truly was a family...Tom was such a great manager, friend, work colleague and overall “fun loving guy!” He will be missed by everyone he touched throughout his life. My deepest sympathy to his family. My heart goes out to all of you! I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. RIP Tom. ❤️🙏😭  
Tammy Wydick

Tammy Wydick - June 06, 2024 at 01:09 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



June 06, 2024 at 12:36 PM

TF

“ The MIDLAND Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

The MIDLAND Family - June 06, 2024 at 12:36 PM

JD

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Tom. He was a class act and great person. I knew Tom from his playing days at Immaculata and from his coaching career also. He always treated everyone with respect and class. He also played on my summer team one year at the Bound Brook codington Park men's league and was an awesome addition to our championship team. He is a true reflection of his great family, and parents. I know he was a great father and family man himself! It was also my pleasure to coach Matty my first year at Somerville HS as the basketball coach. All my sympathy to the entire family. God bless  
Joe D'Alessandro

Joe D'Alessandro - June 06, 2024 at 09:58 AM

DT

“ Dan S, Rachel R & The GO2 Partners Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Dan S, Rachel R & The GO2 Partners Team - June 06, 2024 at 09:01 AM

DT

“ Dan S, Rachel R & The GO2 Partners Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

Dan S, Rachel R & The GO2 Partners Team - June 06, 2024 at 09:01 AM



“ . purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



. - June 06, 2024 at 08:32 AM



“ . planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

. - June 06, 2024 at 08:32 AM

MF

“ Michael frauenheim purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Michael frauenheim - June 05, 2024 at 09:39 PM

MF

“ Michael frauenheim planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

Michael frauenheim - June 05, 2024 at 09:39 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



June 05, 2024 at 08:00 PM

TF

“ The Parenti Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

The Parenti Family - June 05, 2024 at 08:00 PM

AF

“ Andy and Joanne Muldoon and Family. purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Andy and Joanne Muldoon and Family. - June 05, 2024 at 05:54 PM

FI

“ From the Book Manufacturers' Institute planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

From the Book Manufacturers' Institute - June 05, 2024 at 03:16 PM



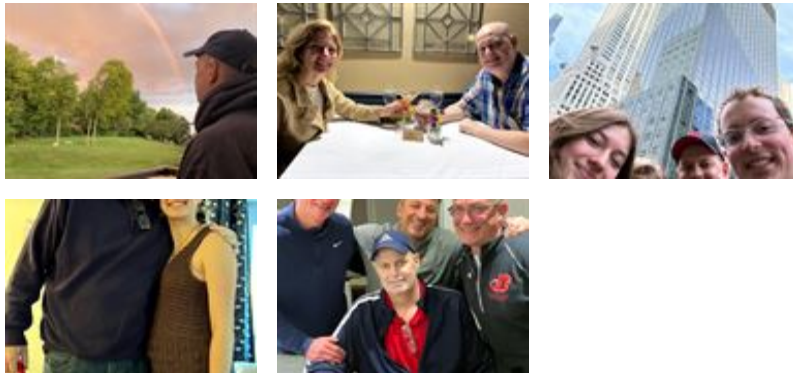
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



June 05, 2024 at 03:16 PM



“ 190 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - June 05, 2024 at 01:50 PM

MP

“ So many wonderful memories with Tom and family. He was an amazing man who truly loved his friends and family.

Missy Paup - June 05, 2024 at 12:08 PM

PF

“ Paup family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Paup family - June 05, 2024 at 12:05 PM

BF

“ Brady Argall and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Brady Argall and family - June 05, 2024 at 09:08 AM



“ What a wonderful tribute to an amazing person, husband, father, coach and friend to many. His impact and legacy will continue through all of those for whom he set the example. So sorry for your loss.

Matt Laukaitis - June 04, 2024 at 06:09 PM

SG

“ Sending love, Grace purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Sending love, Grace - June 04, 2024 at 04:22 PM

DK

“ *The Power of the Ball is real. Basketball brought Tom and I together in winter 2010-11 and led us to a strong friendship when we ultimately started coaching AAU together in 2016. I can't emphasize how good a guy he was. The absolute best. I am so glad we crossed paths in life, just wish it would have been for a longer amount of time Prayers to Wendy, Adam and Lily and to all that are filling the void that I am.*

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**Doug Kraft** - June 04, 2024 at 04:10 PM

DK

*feeling the void that I am.*

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**Doug Kraft** - June 04, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*



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June 04, 2024 at 03:38 PM

HP

“ *Holly Parlo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*

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**Holly Parlo** - June 04, 2024 at 03:38 PM

JA

“ *Judy A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*

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**Judy A.** - June 04, 2024 at 11:39 AM

JM

“ John Creeden & Michele Modesitt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernocho.



John Creeden & Michele Modesitt - June 04, 2024 at 11:35 AM

KC

“ Krystle C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernocho.

Krystle C. - June 04, 2024 at 09:25 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernocho.



June 04, 2024 at 08:42 AM

RM

“ Tom is a Paper Industry Legend for the book publishing market. He was a fantastic communicator and relationship builder and an overall joy to be around. Although we worked for different companies and competed for business and market share, he was always cordial and friendly to me during our careers. God Bless Tom.

richard murach - June 04, 2024 at 08:24 AM

MC

“ Tommy was much more than a teammate and friend to me. He was the first person to come find me on my second day of college. I was a freshman knowing no one, and Tommy found me, introduced himself, told me when pickup games for the team were scheduled and then introduced me to everyone on the team when I got there.

He was a captain, a leader, a connector and someone who looked out for others all the time.

He was very influential on me, our experience and was always there for all of us, if we needed someone.

He was a big brother to me and I'll miss him terribly.

Please take some comfort knowing Tommy was universally loved by those who know him. No one has a bad word to say about him, and it's a tribute to his character.

He was raised right.

Mark

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**Mark Copeland** - June 04, 2024 at 08:11 AM

MC

“ Mark Copeland and The Copelands planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

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**Mark Copeland and The Copelands** - June 04, 2024 at 08:04 AM

MC

“ *Mark Copeland and The Copelands purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*



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**Mark Copeland and The Copelands** - June 04, 2024 at 08:04 AM

TF

“ *THE ANTICO FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*

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**THE ANTICO FAMILY** - June 03, 2024 at 11:29 PM

TF

“ *THE ANTICO FAMILY purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*



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**THE ANTICO FAMILY** - June 03, 2024 at 11:29 PM

D-

“ *David, Scott, Kevin, John, and Tia - planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*

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**David, Scott, Kevin, John, and Tia** - - June 03, 2024 at 10:05 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernocho.



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June 03, 2024 at 10:05 PM



“ Thank you for this beautiful description of a life well lived. I never knew about these Dickinson basketball records! Your family is so special. Watching the TLC you provided these last two years was so heartwarming. Tom made this community a better place. I can still hear him cheering at Lily's dance performances like it was a basketball game and how he was always worrying about Lily driving and being in the big city. He loved his family deeply. He is forever in our hearts.

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**Jennifer Walker** - June 03, 2024 at 09:57 PM



“ Bob Geiger and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernocho.

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**Bob Geiger and family** - June 03, 2024 at 09:47 PM



“ Bob Geiger and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernocho.



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**Bob Geiger and family** - June 03, 2024 at 09:47 PM

FA

“ Friends of Adam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

Friends of Adam - June 03, 2024 at 08:35 PM

FA

“ Friends of Adam purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Friends of Adam - June 03, 2024 at 08:35 PM

IP

“ Immaculata Boys Basketball Program purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



Immaculata Boys Basketball Program - June 03, 2024 at 08:20 PM

IP

“ Immaculata Boys Basketball Program planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

Immaculata Boys Basketball Program - June 03, 2024 at 08:20 PM

JB

“ Joanie & Fred Bollinger purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



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**Joanie & Fred Bollinger** - June 03, 2024 at 08:05 PM

WM

“ We are sorry for your loss. Tommy was such a nice guy! Always a hello and always asked about Brock! I hope he and Jack are talking up a storm! Thinking of you all at this sad time. Wendy and Brock Manning

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**Wendy Manning** - June 03, 2024 at 07:33 PM

TF

“ The Ammaturo Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.

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**The Ammaturo Family** - June 03, 2024 at 06:04 PM

TF

“ The Ammaturo Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.



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**The Ammaturo Family** - June 03, 2024 at 06:04 PM

TK

“ *Timi Kirchner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*

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**Timi Kirchner** - June 03, 2024 at 04:47 PM

TK

“ *Timi Kirchner purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Thomas "Tom" Joseph Wernoch.*



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**Timi Kirchner** - June 03, 2024 at 04:47 PM