



## Thomas Herbert Metzger

April 18, 1957 - February 27, 2019

Thomas H. Metzger, of Maumee, who built a Toledo business institution, overcame cancer twice, and never met a baseball stadium that he didn't love, passed away on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at The Toledo Hospital surrounded by his loving family. He was 61.

As CEO of Metzgers, an expansive print and fulfillment company, Tom proved himself a brilliant entrepreneur and a gifted leader. He cherished his relationships forged with co-workers, peers within the printing industry, and clients. He led by example, with a strong work ethic, inventive mind, and a deep loyalty to those around him.

He was proud of the awards that he and Metzgers received, including inductions into the Printing Industry Hall of Fame and Entrepreneurial and Business Excellence Hall of Fame, as well as the Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics from the Better Business Bureau. He drew pride from not only operating a family business, but ensuring its longevity and success. He was grateful to share in each achievement with his father, brothers, sister, and more recently his son, Tony.

Tom was born in Toledo on April 18, 1957 to Norb and Patt Metzger. He enjoyed a lively childhood with his siblings Dick, Cathy, Connie, and Joe. They were longtime members of the South branch of the YMCA, where he was an avid swimmer/diver. Tom attended Harvard Elementary School, and as a member of the St. John's Jesuit High School class of 1975 he competed on the cross-country and wrestling teams. But some of his best times were less structured. With his siblings and their neighborhood friends, a young Tom transformed Mound Ave in South Toledo into a launch pad for adventures.

As a young adult, Tom cultivated friends through his many hobbies: playing softball, snowmobiling, boating (either at the controls or trailing on skis), and working on the grounds crew for the Toledo Mud Hens. On one particularly special night in 1979, while shooting pool at Charlie's Blind Pig, he met his future wife, Anita (Diehl). They married on September 5, 1981 and soon had two sons, Adam and Tony.

With his father, Norb, and his brother, Dick, he co-founded Type House in 1976. His brother Joe quickly joined the fold. As co-leaders, Tom and Joe were an exceptional duo, two sides of the same coin. With the addition of his sister Connie, the family business evolved from a small typesetting shop into the current-day iteration of Metzgers, which employs over 100 people in the family's hometown of Toledo.

For Tom, family stood above all else. A member of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns parish, Tom enjoyed coaching both of his sons in sports. He reveled in sharing their accomplishments with family and friends; they were, in Tom's eyes, his greatest achievement. He loved traveling, cooking out, and playing cards with his family and both his and his wife's siblings. He liked to share memories from favorite trips, like those to Alaska, Amsterdam, Colorado, Cooperstown, Disney World, and Germany for the 2016 drupa print trade show.

Tom enjoyed being outdoors, running at Swan Creek Metropark, and taking care of his lawn. He loved sports and supported University of Toledo football and basketball, as well as Toledo Walleye hockey. It had been a goal of Tom's to visit every National Park and MLB stadium, but on a sunny day with his wife and kids, any ballpark did just fine. His favorite activity was taking them on a summer afternoon to watch a Tigers or Mud Hens game. In one hand, a box of popcorn; in the other, a cool beer.

Tom first battled cancer in 1989, defeating lymphoma with help of radiation treatment. The same radiation eventually caused its own challenges. In 2006, he had his first heart surgery. Doctors encouraged him to become more active, which he naturally took as a challenge. In 2009, he completed the Chicago Marathon. Then he did it again. And again. And a fourth time, running his last Chicago Marathon in 2014.

Tom was a fighter. He would eventually win a second bout with cancer and undergo a second major heart surgery. But the effects of the radiation eventually began to target his respiratory system. Tom valiantly battled to the end. His family would like to thank his team of doctors as well as the staffs of both the Toledo Hospital and the University of Toledo Medical Center for all of their expertise, caring, and hard work.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Norb Metzger, his mother, Patt Metzger, and his brothers, Dick Metzger and Joe Metzger, as well as his father-in-law Harvey Diehl. He is survived by his beloved wife, Anita, his sons Adam and Tony, his sisters Cathy Plante (Ken), Connie Flahie (Jim), his mother-in-law, Leona Diehl, his sisters-in-law Marilyn Metzger, Dana Metzger, Teri, Lisa, Helen, and Dee-Dee Diehl, Mary Ann Lacure (Larry), his brother-in-law, Jim Diehl, and his much loved nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at Coyle Funeral Home from 12:00pm to 6:00pm on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 1770 S Reynolds Rd. Funeral services will be at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 10:00am.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, those interested consider a donation to Hospice of Northwest Ohio or The Hickman Cancer Center at Flower Hospital.

# Events

---

**MAR**   **Visitation**            12:00PM - 06:00PM

**3**

---

Coyle Funeral Home

1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH, US, 43614

**MAR**   **Vigil**                    05:00PM

**3**

---

Coyle Funeral Home

1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH, US, 43614

**MAR**   **Service**                10:00AM

**4**

---

St Patrick Of Heatherdowns

4201 Heatherdowns Blvd, Toledo, OH, US

# Comments

---



“

Anita....

Todd and I send our sincere condolences to you and your Family. We are so sorry to hear about Tom's passing.

May the many happy memories of all those good and cherished times help you heal.

Michelle Roberts

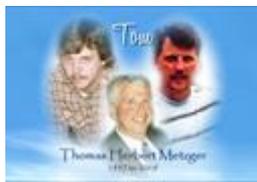
Michelle Roberts - March 04, 2019 at 10:23 AM

---



“

2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - March 02, 2019 at 03:32 PM

---



“

Anita and Adam, Tony so sorry to hear about Tom may he rest in peace, what a beautiful and loving family I have had the pleasure to know, Ethel.

ethel - March 02, 2019 at 01:20 PM

---



“

Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Herbert Metzger.



March 02, 2019 at 12:16 PM

---



“ I was just a dumb 19 year old kid when I started working for Norb, Dick, Tom and Joe. They made me part of their family. Tom was fair, fun, honest and kind of heart. When I picture his face in my mind it is always with a smile. I am sorry for the whole family that you have lost another too soon. I know Tom shares in the glory of heaven.

**Beth (Cooley) Thieman** - March 02, 2019 at 10:01 AM

---



“ Wayne, Beth, Chris, Brittany and David Hartford purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Herbert Metzger.



**Wayne, Beth, Chris, Brittany and David Hartford** - March 02, 2019 at 09:11 AM

---



“ We were very saddened to learn of Tom's passing. His memory will carry on in many hearts. His dedication to his family and his business speaks volumes to the kind of man he was. May he rest in peace.

**Mike and Elaine Niese** - March 02, 2019 at 01:05 AM

---



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Herbert Metzger.



March 01, 2019 at 10:26 PM

---



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Herbert Metzger.



March 01, 2019 at 07:58 PM

---



“ What can one say at a time like this that really captures a lifetime....Tom lived a good life, fought the fight of his life, made many friends, enjoyed lifes experiences, and then took the trip to the final frontier....bless you Anita for sharing his life and helping Tom....also his boys and his siblings....my heartfelt condolences

**Diann Slusser** - March 01, 2019 at 07:46 PM

---



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Herbert Metzger.



March 01, 2019 at 07:35 PM

---



“ The last time I have seen Tom I was walking Swan Creek Park and he ran right by me and said hi Art. It's hard to believe that was the last time. It makes no sense.

**ARTHUR C WISMER JR** - March 01, 2019 at 07:20 PM

---



“ I met Tom, Joe and Norb nearly 25 years ago upon my return to Michigan. Tom and Joe made a great team and Norb was certainly proud of his son's accomplishments both on a personal and professional perspective. The good Lord had a divine plan for all three of them as they were all called way before their time. The Metzger Legacy of family, community and service will certainly continue for countless generations to come. Rest in Peace Tom, you will be missed and fondly remembered by all that knew you...

Al Reijmer - March 01, 2019 at 07:20 PM

---



“ Tom always rose to every challenge in his personal and business life, and he did it with grace and style. I remember meeting Tom and his dad Norb and brother Tom when they called me in to their office years ago and wanted to get into the printing side of the business. Joe was full of excitement, Tom levelheaded said we can do this and Norb, well he knew he was out numbered! Tom always filled a needed roll that seemed to often change and made everyone around him better. He will be remember as a great man. Rest In Peace my old friend! Until we meet again in the presence of God our Father.

John Raithel - March 01, 2019 at 06:41 PM

---



“ Our deepest sympathies for your loss.

- The Graphco Family

Graphco - March 01, 2019 at 05:35 PM

---



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Herbert Metzger.



March 01, 2019 at 05:34 PM

---



“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Herbert Metzger.



March 01, 2019 at 04:50 PM