



Thomas Edward Whalen

September 21, 1949 - December 4, 2018

Thomas Edward Whalen (age 69) died Monday, December 3rd, 2018 from complications of Neuroendocrine Cancer.

Tom was born September 21, 1949 to John and Katie Whalen in Detroit MI. The family lived in Ann Arbor, Atlanta, and Chicago before settling in the Toledo area.

Tom was a 1968 graduate of Sylvania High School. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Bowling Green State University's school of Journalism where he met his wife of 47 years, Merrilee.

Directly after college, Tom started working at the UAW Local 12 as an Assistant Editor of the Union Journal. He became the Managing Editor when his predecessor retired. Soon after, Tom also started his own communication, desktop publishing, and photography (including wedding and portrait) business. In addition to the Local 12 Union Journal, he also became Managing Editor of the Local 14 Union Progress. He was also Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Toledo photographer for many years. Over a span of five decades, Tom has photographed and written about numerous members of Congress, Senators, presidential candidates and most presidents. One of his favorite boasts is that his job gave him the ability to tell the President of the USA "where to go" (Mr. President, please stand over there).

Photography was more than his profession, it was a great love and he took beautiful pictures from his many travels.

Tom and Merrilee were members of Laurel Hill Tennis Club for over 30 years and loved playing tennis and all of the social parties that took place there. Tom was an avid Detroit Tigers fan. He never missed a game and kept hoping that they would finally win that World Series...maybe next year. He was also an avid reader, having the ability to solve any mystery way before the ending and a fan of Western movies starring John Wayne. He loved animals, especially dogs; he never met a dog who didn't instantly take to him and stay by his side at all times.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Merrilee, daughters Jennifer (Chris) Knapik and Lindy Whalen, sister Sue Whalen, brother Michael Whalen, many nieces and nephews, and Gracie his basset hound. Tom was preceded in death by his parents John and Katie Whalen.

Special thank you to Dr. Richard Paat and Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Family and friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., on Friday, December 7th from 4-7 p.m. Visitation will continue Saturday, December 8th at 10 a.m. with a Memorial Service immediately following at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Toledo Area Humane Society or Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at CoyleFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 865-1295
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

Service

DEC 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 865-1295
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

CV

“ 3 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - December 07, 2018 at 09:26 AM

LF

“ Condolences to Toms family. He was a wonderful man and a conscientious worker. He took pride in all he did.

Larry Fox

Larry Foxx - December 06, 2018 at 10:15 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Whalen.



December 06, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Whalen.



December 05, 2018 at 08:22 PM

JM

“ As a friend and coworker of Tom, it amazes me of his strength through his time of illness. One of the times of work socializing, Tom & I played in the Adopt a Family golf outing. If you are a golfer you know that you “mark” your golf ball. Well, I tend to initial mine in Red, in LARGE letters! Tom cracked up laughing and said, “ Didn’t know you could write a Novel on a golf ball!”
Fortunately, Tom played in the same outing, on my foursome, this past August. Keeping with his “sense of humor” he said, “ See you are still writing that story!”
It truly has been a pleasure to of known Tom. A kind, soft spoken man. Only got loud when he dug a trench on the course! Be at Rest.
See ya on the 19th Hole!
Jo An Matney

Jo An Matney - December 05, 2018 at 07:57 PM

JM

“ On behalf of the Local 12 Retiree Members, I wish to extend our condolences to the Family of Tom Whalen, UAW Local 12 Editor/Photographer Toledo Union Journal. Tom was always considerate and patient with the Retirees, always being available for their “antics/events” throughout the years, snapping away....photo after photo, to get their “good side!” Bringing & making smiles with a sense of humor, that you had to think sometimes what exactly Tom was implying. Very much appreciated for all his work, Tom will be greatly missed. RIP.

Jo An Matney, Retiree Chair

Jo An Matney - December 05, 2018 at 07:40 PM

CT

“ *Children's Heart Center staff and Peds Echo Techs purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Edward Whalen.*



Children's Heart Center staff and Peds Echo Techs -
December 05, 2018 at 04:34 PM

SV

“ *Lisa and I are so sorry to hear about Tom's passing. He was a wonderful man and a great neighbor. The Dogs (especially Abby) will surely miss him.*

Steve & Lisa Vary - December 05, 2018 at 10:07 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Whalen.*



December 05, 2018 at 09:17 AM

TG

“ *Merrilee, I am so so sorry. My memory of Tom, years back, was his mastery of Trivial Pursuit! Always wanted to be on his team! You and family have my deepest sympathy. Love, Terri*

terri gill - December 05, 2018 at 08:01 AM

BW

“ I will never forget Tommy for coming to a ‘Celebration of Life’...for my beloved Janie this year 💔 💔 💔 ...in the midst of his challenges
💔

Bill Whalen - December 05, 2018 at 07:35 AM

TM

“ Respect for your grief, Roomie, Jennifer, and Merrilee. So much love to you and yours.

Tara Mackinder - December 05, 2018 at 07:07 AM