



Thomas "Tom" Walter Leis

July 3, 2023

Thomas "Tom" Walter Leis, generous family-man, avid collector, professional shopper, and accomplished bull-shitter, died suddenly Monday, July 3, 2023, at the age of 76.

Tom was born in Brookville, PA, son of the late Walter and Evelyn Leis. After high school, he went to Erie, PA, where he met the love of his life and best friend, Carol, who he somehow convinced to marry him before they could even drink at their own wedding. After completing his associate degree at Erie Business College, Tom started his 39-year career with IBM that sent him all over the world: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Connecticut (x2), Maryland, Japan, and finally South Carolina. Tom was immensely proud of his time at IBM and considered himself a true IBMer. After his retirement, he continued "working" and turned his focus to community and civic activities. He was a current board member of the Litchfield Beautification Foundation and previously held the same position with the Litchfield by the Sea and the River Club Community Organizations.

The only thing that Tom cared about more than his work was his family. Tom was an unbelievably generous husband, father, and grandfather who did everything he could to make his family happy. He showed this on a daily basis by ensuring he was home every night for family dinner, promptly at 7pm. His favorite time of the year was Christmas, when he got to shower his family with gifts that he had been purchasing over the past 364 days. It was truly

something he spent a full year preparing for and he was more excited to give the gifts than his family was to receive them.

Tom had a dry sense of humor, was incredibly sarcastic, and loved to tell stories. And, you could be sure 50% of every story was true. You just never knew which 50%. Along with those stories came teasing and joking around, his family being the main recipient of his teasing, but no one was safe, as he would talk with everyone and never really met a stranger. Tom is probably best known to be stubborn, but only because he wanted to ensure the right thing was done in every situation. Tom lived by the motto “anything worth doing is worth doing right” and he applied that to all situations. Tom’s strongest and most unknown trait was his sentimentality, he was a repository of family artifacts and history and tied together many generations of Leises. Tom’s untimely departure creates a huge hole in his family and community. He will be missed more than words can say.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol, his son Chris and his wife Shawn of Washington, DC; his son, Matt and his wife Kelly, along with his granddaughters, Evelyn & Kinley of Cumming, GA; and his sister, Cheryl and her husband Roger of Grapevine, TX.

A Celebration of Tom’s life will be held on July 29th, 2023 at the Litchfield by the Sea Beach house. The celebration will start at 3pm and all are welcome. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to the American Diabetes Association at <https://diabetes.org/>. More importantly, the family would like to hear your stories about Tom. Please visit <http://twleis.com> to share your stories, pictures, and memories of the great man we all knew.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ Tom was the kind of guy who always made you feel welcome , whether it was my first day at IBM in the U.S., or a trip to the Sugarloaf Craft Fair , or an unexpected encounter in Charleston , or in the beautiful home he built with Carol . In one word , he always made my husband Angelo and me feel welcome in his life , with a smile, with generosity and with his funny irony . We will cherish all those memories forever .
Lilu and Angelo

lilu battaini - July 10, 2023 at 06:56 PM

LW

“ I was enormously saddened to hear about Tom’s death. I will always remember him as being very kind and a man of uncompromising integrity. I so much enjoyed working with him in Tokyo and will always remember that he had fun watching me try to use the chop sticks. I was extremely unskilled and never mastered the process so when we would go out to eat Japanese food, he would order a folk for me and we would both laugh.

Carol, Matt, Cris, please have comfort in the wonderful legacy that Tom left for you and know that his love for you was unbounded. As you embark on life without his physical presence my prayers are for your love for each other, good health, and God’s abundant blessing.

Lee Winslett - July 10, 2023 at 11:46 AM

CB

“ Leo Banka, Tom was like the brother I never had. I remember Monday night foot ball games at our home. Our continuous argument over which was best Coke or Pepsi. I remember summer evenings in our back yard pool. I never laughed so hard. You never knew where you would end up, in the pool, out of the pool or in the back yard hedges. There were Tom, Dick Sedor, Rich Benny and me. He was like a brother.
Leo

charolette banka - July 08, 2023 at 07:06 PM

CB

“ Charolette Banka, To me Tom Leis was Tommy Leis no matter how old we were. I never saw Tommy without a smile on his face. He was my younger cousin by 2 years. He was from Brookville, Pa. and I was from Helvetia, Pa. a little coal mining town. To me when I was little Tommy was from the big city of Brookville. When Tom and Carol moved to Erie, Pa we got reunited in the 1970's. I remember our trip to Cape Cod, many dinner parties, card parties, fondue parties and just PARTIES!! One in particular I remember when SOME HOW I remember ending up on Tommy's shoulders while he was dancing to THREE DOG NIGHT. I know for sure I would have never got onto anyone else's shoulders except Tommy's, not even my husband Leo's. Our daughters were around 4 and 6 years old and Tom and Carol would come over to our home, Tom would play with them, tease them, get them all wound up and then it was time for Tom and Carol to go home. Leo and I were there to calm them down and try to get them to bed. About 2 years ago we started to talk on the phone once in a while and had some very meaningful conversations. The last time we talked he was putting up Christmas decorations and Carol was playing cards with some friends. (2022) I loved Tommy and Carol and I'm so glad they were part of our lives for awhile. Leo and I were so sad when they moved away. Love you Carol, Charolette

charolette banka - July 08, 2023 at 06:52 PM

AW

“ Tom was a pillar to everyone that knew him! He will be missed dearly! Sending my thoughts, prayers and love to the Leis Family!



Ashley Wales - July 08, 2023 at 07:45 AM