



Thomas J. Kaperak

April 20, 1943 - December 24, 2022

Thomas J. Kaperak, age 79, of Mentor, passed away Saturday, December 24, 2022 at home. He was born April 20, 1943, in Youngstown, OH. He graduated from Struthers High School in 1960 at which time he joined the Air Force. He also attended Lakeland Community College.

Mr. Kaperak has been working as a Transportation Operator for the Riverside Local Schools and has been doing so for approximately 20 years. He held positions as President of his union for several years and Chief Job Stewart. He loved interacting with the children on the bus. Prior to that he worked for The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company in various capacities (lineman, meter reading, meter test and Chief Job Stewart), and did so for approximately 35 years, before retiring in 2001.

Tom was a US Air Force Veteran serving 1960 – 1964 with an honorable discharge. He loved to hunt and participated in Silhouette competitions, winning many awards. He and his brother-in-law, Mike Murcko, did many of these things together especially going on an Elk hunt to Montana. In his earlier years, he enjoyed deer hunting at his cabin in Pennsylvania in addition to motorcycle dirt bike riding. Playing indoor soccer with friends was one of his pleasures. He volunteered with the Mentor Soccer Club and was a Board member for many years. He loved spending time with his family and friends, especially vacationing in Alaska and touring all the canyons. Working on

electronics with his brother, Stephen, gave him much enjoyment.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years: Evelyn (Murcko) Kaperak; daughter: Jennifer Lynn (Alan Rill) Kaperak; brother: Stephen Kaperak and several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Preceding Tom in death are his parents: Steve and Elizabeth (Forgach) Kaperak, siblings: Mary (Lefty) Makovec, Kay (Clem) Rucinski, Margaret Kaperak and sister in law: Eleanor Kaperak.

A funeral mass will be held 12:00 pm Friday, December 30, 2022 at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 9925 Johnnycake Ridge RD. Mentor, OH. 44060.

In lieu of flowers the family requests contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Cleveland Area Chapter, 23215 Commerce Park Suite 300, Beachwood, Ohio 44122.

Arrangements entrusted to Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH. 44060.

Offer Condolences at www.brunners.com

Tribute Wall

MD

“ *Mr. Tom was very kind to my daughter on his bus and I always knew she was safe! We will miss him very much! Our condolences! - The Dietz Family*



Michelle Dietz - January 15, 2023 at 03:40 PM

CP

“ *Christine M Paxton lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Kaperak*



Christine M Paxton - December 30, 2022 at 10:48 PM

CP

“ *My Uncle and I shared a birth-day - April 20th. Twice in all the years our numbers were transposed - he 31 and me 13, and then he 75 and me 57 - he wasn't too keen on that 2nd transposition. First thoughts when I remember him... T-SHIRT with pocket and blue jeans, ARMS crossed over chest, GRIN on face, SHAKING of head - many times shaking of head, POP (I never could remember Coke or Pepsi?!), CLERMONT camp in Pa. where we spent many weekends trying to sleep in a loft with him and his crazy snoring, HUMOR with sarcastic one-liners, STORY-telling, PLAZA PIZZA from Hermitage, Pa... I can go on and on, but lets just end this with... so happy to have him part of our FAMILY, and will miss him and treasure the memories of him forever. Always in my heart, Dear Uncle Tom.
Love, Christine*

Christine M Paxton - December 30, 2022 at 01:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 30, 2022 at 10:24 AM



“ *Tom was such a kind man. We worked together for many years when he was the OAPSE President and I was the BOE President. He also was my kids bus driver, he even knew the kids birthdays and would come by with small gifts. He will be missed greatly by all that had the pleasure of knowing him.*

Jennifer Harden - December 30, 2022 at 09:58 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences to the family of Tom. Mr. Kaperak may you Rest in Eternal Peace. Tom, Evelyn Jennifer, and Alan were our neighbors and you could not ask for better neighbors. Once our alarm was ringing (fire) and Art was out of town, Tom came to the rescue. There was also a snake, I thought in our front door and I called him,(again Art was OOT). Thank you very much, you will be missed. Love, Art and Erlinda Gonzalez*

Erlinda Gonzalez - December 29, 2022 at 08:58 PM

RP

“ *Roni & Hal Pavia purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



Roni & Hal Pavia - December 29, 2022 at 06:58 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 29, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 29, 2022 at 08:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 28, 2022 at 06:00 PM

VM

“ I am so so sad to hear that Mr Tom passed away. He was our favorite bus driver. Always with a smile and a wave. Took great care of the kids. My daughter always like him as well. Made sure my little one didn't have to walk. We will always remember him dressing up for Halloween. All the kids looked forward to seeing him Halloween morning. My deepest sympathy to Mrs Tom (Evelyn) and your daughter. May you all have peace.

Vickie, Joe and Emily Masar - December 28, 2022 at 05:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.



December 28, 2022 at 12:57 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.



December 28, 2022 at 09:33 AM

HD

“ So sad to hear this. I met Tom when he first started working for Mentor schools. Then he and I worked together for years at the mosquito control. We made great truck partners because we both loved the air conditioning. I don't think I ever saw him wear a coat. RIP Tom. Holly Dudas

Holly Dudas - December 28, 2022 at 09:04 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 28, 2022 at 03:46 AM



“ *Diane Nichols lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Kaperak*



Diane Nichols - December 28, 2022 at 02:14 AM



“ *Tom, the guardian angel of Glen Arbor Ct. More than once, when my three kids were really little ones, did I look out the window to see him snow blowing our driveway. I always appreciated the neighborly gesture. I will miss waving to him in my coming and goings.*

Geri Penkowski - December 28, 2022 at 01:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 27, 2022 at 10:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.



December 27, 2022 at 10:08 PM



“ Uncle Tom and I had a joint love of the “Looney Toons “ cartoons. Especially the Road Runner resulting in him wanting me to paint a scene from the cartoon on his 2-1/2 car garage door! As I painted in the evenings after work he would pull up a lawn chair and watch me and sometimes laugh uncontrollably in a very sinister way! He loved that door and I really thought he would take it with him when they moved. I can’t watch that cartoon, to this day, without thinking about that time and, I swear, I can still hear his laugh!❤️❤️

Debbie Kaperak Cunningham - December 27, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ I was very sorry to hear about Tom's death. My sympathies go out to Evelyn and Jenn. When my daughter Shelley told me I immediately remembered the soccer days. Tom had a very different thermostat from me. On the cold days I would be in a hooded sweatshirt and warm coat and I would look across the field and I would look at Tom cheering on Jenn in short sleeve shirt.

lou Szabo - December 27, 2022 at 05:40 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 27, 2022 at 05:24 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Kaperak.*



December 27, 2022 at 04:59 PM



“ *Tom was a regular when I worked at a local scuba shop. We even dove together. A very nice man.*

Tom Szabo - December 27, 2022 at 02:12 PM



I am a scuba diver as well but never knew Tom did that. He was out of Concord and Ashtabula while I was on the West side so we did not meet a lot.

Mike Patena - December 27, 2022 at 07:37 PM



We have been friends for many, many years. A lot of good times and good memories. You will be forever missed!!! Love Bob and Shirl

Michelle Stephens - December 28, 2022 at 08:29 PM