



Thomas F. Block

December 9, 1942 - June 23, 2015

Thomas F. Block, age 72, died peacefully in his home on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, after a 5 month battle with lung cancer. He had the opportunity during the last month of his life to spend time with the family and friends whom he loved.

Tom was born on December 9, 1942 in Brooklyn, New York to Alexander and Helen Block. He grew up in what he described as “Archie Bunker’s neighborhood.” He attended Catholic school, was often the class clown, and later he teased the arthritis in his hands was caused by all the times the nuns hit him with a ruler.

He enlisted in the Navy at age 18 and served 3 years on the USS Randolph, an aircraft carrier. His was the flagship during the Cuban crisis, with Robert McNamara on board.

He moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1966 and there met his future wife, Barbara Ann Ibanez. They were married on June 3, 1967 and just celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary.

Tom joined the Ft Lauderdale Fire Department in 1969 and was a firefighter for many years, and then an inspector and arson investigator. He retired after 24 years, but then worked as a part time fire inspector for the cities of Coral Springs, Fl. and Mt. Dora, Fl. He and his wife moved to Tallahassee to be near their son and family in 2007.

Tom was a fun loving man who had many friends and thoroughly enjoyed people. He was loved by all. He was always passionate about sports—especially the Brooklyn/LA Dodgers, the Miami Dolphins, and FSU--and loved to play tennis. He loved music and often had Frank Sinatra playing in the background. More recently, his grandchildren became the center of his life. Tom was always concerned about fire safety, and even in retirement always did a quick assessment of every building he entered. There were countless times that he helped people eliminate fire hazards and make their homes/businesses safer.

Any gifts in his memory should be directed to:

Children's Burn Camp of North Florida

PO Box 368

Tallahassee, FL. 32302

<http://www.campamigo.com/index.html>

Tom is survived by his wife, Barbara, his son Tom (Laura) and grandchildren, Reagan and Nolan; his brother Jack Block (Mia) of Los Angeles and his step brother Jim Gavagan (Carol). He dearly loved his sister in law Lois Franke, and her daughters Robin Beltz and Jennifer Same (Tim) and their children Timmy and Ashley Beltz and Aidan, and Owen Same. In addition, Ann DeBlank and her son Jay DeBlank are friends who have always been part of our family.

Tom's family wishes to thank all the friends and neighbors who have been so caring during this difficult time.

A memorial service will be held at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church on Friday, July 10 at 1pm in the sanctuary.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
1700 North Meridian Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tribute Wall

LY

“ *"We are so saddened for your loss.
Tom: You are already missed and will always be remembered for
your kind, gentle ways."*

Lou and Phyllis Yambor

Lou and Phyllis Yambor - July 09, 2015 at 06:23 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Thomas F. Block.*



July 08, 2015 at 02:41 PM

KG

“ *Kevin Graham purchased the Peaceful White Lili
es Basket for the family of Thomas F. Block.*



Kevin Graham - June 30, 2015 at 01:31 PM

JC

“ Tom & I go way back. We worked for ma-bell and then FLFD. We played soft ball together for three teams for many years, ma-bell, FD and Pat's Place. Tom was on my handful of best lifelong friends. I loved him like a brother and will miss him dearly. I will cherish my memories of him forever, Barbara, Tommy, Laura and family I am so sorry for your loss My Deepest Sympathy Rick

JR Conley - June 29, 2015 at 12:14 PM

AF

“ To a really good man I only knew for a few years the best wishes to his family and our deepest condolences from the Frittelli family



Arthur Tyler Christine Frittelli - June 28, 2015 at 05:14 PM

CA

“ We only have wonderful memories of this fine man and 1st class Firefighter. We will miss him.

Mike and Mary Calkins

CALKINS - June 27, 2015 at 10:58 AM



“ Fields of Lavender Condolences Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas F. Block.



June 26, 2015 at 05:24 PM

MT

“ Our deepest condolences on Tom's passing. He was a very compassionate man. Rollen and I had the pleasure of working with him at the cold weather shelter last winter. Even though I know his back was hurting at the time, he still put other's well-being before his. He will be missed.
- Rollen and Myrna Thomas

Myrna Thomas - June 26, 2015 at 11:03 AM

CJ

“ We were so sad to hear the news about Tom! I'll always remember his kind smile and wonderful sense of humor. We hope you can find peace in your memories of him and comfort in the scriptural hope for the future when all sickness will vanish. (Isaiah 33:24) Our deepest condolences. -The Jays

C. Jay - June 26, 2015 at 08:21 AM

SM

“ I am saddened to hear about Tom. The last time I saw Tom was when I visted with him and Barb in Mt. Dora. I met Tom when I joined the Fire Dept. he was one of the first smiling faces I met. Tom being a practical joker, it seemed I always got the tail end. There are many stories I would like to share but not enough space here..

Tom will be missed and I send my condolence to the family.

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Sid and Ellie Marchant

Sid Marchant - June 25, 2015 at 03:41 PM

EC

“ I was so sad to hear that my childhood friend Tommy has passed away. We grew up in Ozone Park on a street filled with children who played in the street, with parents who sat on stoops in the evening and shared stories of their day. Tom and I used to torment each other about the fact he had to wear my shoes (his Mother had forgotten his) when he returned from the hospital after having his tonsils removed. When our Mother's went back to work Tommy and I would come home from school for lunch and I can remember his Grandmother making the best French Toast w/powdered sugar. Years passed and distance became wider but if we did see each other we laughed about the Nuns using the ruler on our hands, especially the boys, and we would try to recall the names of the neighbors on 110 Street. Very happy time in both of our lives. Rest easy now Tommy.
Love to you Barbara and your family.

Eileen McQuade Carver - June 25, 2015 at 01:48 PM

OB

“ Barbara, Otto thoroughly enjoyed working with Tom on the fire department in Ft. Lauderdale and getting reacquainted with him when you lived in Mt. Dora. His jokes were enjoyed by all and he was a gentle man and a gentleman. We are very sad by his passing but he will long be remembered in our memory bank. Otto and Blossey

Otto and Kaye Blossey - June 25, 2015 at 09:36 AM

BI

“ Tom and myself go back so many years. Growing up on the same street in Ozone Park and going to the same school where the nuns hit the boys especially Tom. Our mothers were best friends forever. We had so many good times and spoke endlessly about Frank Sinatra and the Dolphins. Tom had a heart of gold, always helpful and spoke kindly of people. Now he is with "Lovey", Al and Jim so I know he is having a good time. May they all look after us. We send our love and prayers to Tommy, Laura and especially Barb.

*Love you all
Barbara and Martyn
Jensen Beach*

Barbara Inwood - June 25, 2015 at 09:13 AM

BB

“ My dad and myself had the opportunity to work with Tom at Fort Lauderdale Fire Precention. He was always fun to work with and he taught me a lot about the job. It was a pleasure knowing this fine gentleman and working with him for a few years.

Bill Banks - June 25, 2015 at 07:52 AM

LB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Laura Block - June 24, 2015 at 08:48 PM

MW

“ I had the great honor to know and love "Pa Block" my heart breaks knowing I will never get to see him again. I hope he has met my Dad in heaven and those two are sharing stories. Great man and will be missed beyond words!

Michelle W - June 24, 2015 at 05:53 PM

HB

“ Barbara; Martha Faye and I are so sorry to hear about Tom. Loved that guy and always enjoyed working with him. Always a smile and a good hand shake. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him. Our prayers to you and you family. Herbie

Herbie Blabon - June 24, 2015 at 04:49 PM

SW

“ My brother and I had the pleasure of meeting Tom when we were visiting our parents, David and Judy Watson, in Tallahassee last October. We talked at the FSU fall baseball game and continued the conversation at a local restaurant. His stories about the Brooklyn Dodgers and his childhood in Ozone Park, Queens, were fascinating. I liked him immediately and looked forward to seeing him again. We were all very saddened at the news of his cancer and are extremely sorry to hear about his passing. My sincerest condolences.

Steve Watson

Steve Watson - June 24, 2015 at 03:24 PM

FC

Barbara , Betty and I are so saddened to learn of Tom's passing, Tom was my long time tennis partner before you moved north He was the nicest guy, great friend and co worker I already miss his jokes and stories our condolences to you and your family sincerely Frank and Betty Connor

Frank Connor - June 24, 2015 at 09:48 PM

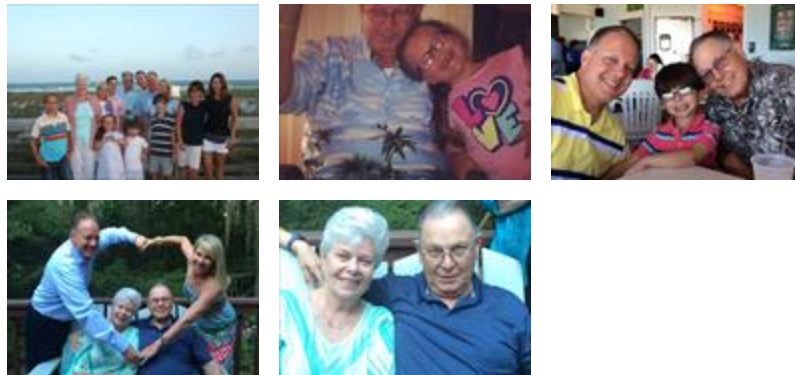
LM

“ *Your family is in my thoughts and prayers in the loss of a very special person!*
Linda Martin

Linda Martin - June 24, 2015 at 10:59 AM

LB

“ *9 files added to the album New Album Name*



Laura Block - June 24, 2015 at 09:42 AM