



Thomas W. Zaia

December 23, 1937 - March 10, 2023

Thomas W. Zaia, 85, of East Peoria, passed away on Friday, March 10, 2023, while vacationing in Florida. He was born on December 23, 1937, in Teaneck, NJ, to Thomas, Sr. and Lavinia (Widony) Zaia. He married his wife of 64 years, Emily A. Noll, on May 2, 1959, at Christ Lutheran Church in Peoria; she survives.

He is also survived by his two brothers, Charles (Judy) McDonald of Jacksonville, FL and Bruce Sobut of Indian Rocks Beach, FL; his sister-in-law, Marilyn (Bud) Elward of Washington, IL; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Tom served in the Air Force and worked for Lockheed Martin in the Missile, Space, and Radar Division for 4 years. He then returned home and worked in Service Engineering at Caterpillar for 40 years, until he retired.

He was an active member of Christ Lutheran Church for over 65 years, serving as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Congregation, elder, trustee, and usher.

Tom and his wife loved boating and traveling together. He was a member of the Peoria Boat Club for 50 years, including 3 years as their Commodore and was a former President of the Jaycees. He was also an avid runner, completing 4 marathons.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at Christ Lutheran Church in Peoria, with visitation at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Pastor Carl Eckhoff will officiate. Inurnment with

military rites will follow at Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria. Gary Dieters Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

Memorials may be made to Christ Lutheran Church in Peoria. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Fondulac Cemetery

1985 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church
2020 W Malone St
Peoria, IL

Memorial Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church
2020 W Malone St
Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas W. Zaia



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 21, 2023 at 02:23 PM

JE

Emily, we just found out Tom had passed away and wanted to let you know how sorry we are. We have so many wonderful memories of us boating and our trip down the rivers to Florida. In Sympathy Joe and Marilyn Evans

Joe and Marilyn Evans - September 26, 2023 at 05:38 PM



“ Thomas W. Zaia

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM

MS

“ Emily Sorry to hear about Tom, as he was a main part of my life at a time.

I'm sure glad I got to talk to you and Tom some time ago.

I was also sorry to hear/read about Mary Ann passing from Tom, but I guess

none of us will live till we decide when our time is up.

May the Good Lord bless you with good memories.

Mel & Peg Sommer

Mel Sommer - March 28, 2023 at 07:43 PM

WH

“ Emily, Bill and I are so sorry to hear about Tom. Bill says he has so many good memories of working with Tom, and also our social visits with you both. Rose and Bill Heger

William M Heger - March 20, 2023 at 05:32 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. Many fond memories of times at Harbor Pointe. Prayers to comfort all of you at this sad time. 🙏❤️🙏

Sherry Semonis - March 19, 2023 at 07:52 PM

TH

“ I met Tom in Caterpillar's Building JJ in the mid 1970s when he was a Service Training Instructor. A very intelligent guy with a wonderful personality, Tom was one of Caterpillar's Finest. I always enjoyed hearing about Tom's boating adventures, and he was always interested my family.
Rest In Peace my Dear Friend.....
Tom Hulting

Tom Hulting - March 19, 2023 at 07:11 PM

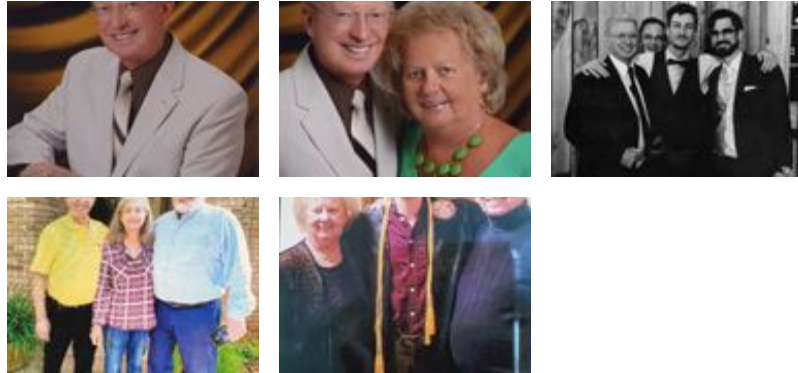
GH

“ I have many fond memories of Tom, from way back in my younger days. The job of being a spotter for him to ski and Em to drive the chocolate brown Classic Runabout. :). His landscaping business back in the '70s when my parents built a house and introduced me to Kirk Ford, a life long friend and excellent mentor when I was growing up. Tom, you will be missed by all.

Greg Hasler - March 19, 2023 at 01:27 PM



“ 27 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 18, 2023 at 05:31 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Zaia.



March 17, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ tom was my inspiration to begin marathoning. His enthusiasm was contagious.

TED GAMBOGI - March 16, 2023 at 07:58 PM



“ Emily, We are so sorry to learn of Tom's passing and your loss. But we will always celebrate the good memories of times together with you and Tom, enjoying good food, good company and his wonderful laugh and smile. God just gained a great Commodore for His fleet.
Bob and Linda Morrison

Bob and Linda Morrison - March 16, 2023 at 05:17 PM

LB

“ Emily, I am so sorry to hear of Tom’s passing. I remember our boat ride from Florida back to Peoria. You are in my prayers 🙏🙏🙏.
Love, Linda Baum

Linda Baum - March 16, 2023 at 03:04 PM

SC

“ Tom and I worked together at CATERPILLAR. We brandished our hair pieces together always with a smile. He was my idol when it came to many things, including his running. I will miss him at the retirees picnic next year.

Steve Chase - March 16, 2023 at 01:34 PM

VR

“ Emily we are so sorry to hear of your loss. We so enjoyed him at our family lunches, always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by so many, may he rest in peace. Hugs and Love



Vicki & Randy Reid - March 15, 2023 at 03:33 PM

LS

“ Louie and I sure enjoyed our dinners together and the many laughs. We will cherish our memories!



Louis & Bernice Sommer - March 14, 2023 at 05:40 PM