



Thomas "Tom" C. Murphy

December 16, 1925 - July 27, 2013

Thomas C. "Tom" Murphy died on July 19th, 2013. He was born December 16, 1925 on a farm in southwest Nebraska and spent his first 12 years in Danbury, only one mile from the Kansas state line. He moved to Storm Lake, Iowa, and graduated from high school there in 1943, after which he entered the Army Air Corps during World War II. He served in France and Italy. Immediately after graduating from Nebraska University in January 1950, he joined New York Life as a Sales Agent in Storm Lake and then was promoted to Sales Manager in Wichita. After less than four years out of school where he received his B.S. in Business Administration, he was moved to New York City for Home Office training before being named General Manager in Topeka, on January 1, 1954. He was the youngest General Manager ever appointed, age 28, and served longer in the same General Office, 34 years, than any other Manager in New York Life's 162 year history. He received his CLU degree from The American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1956 and the CFP designation from the Financial College in Denver in 1981. Mr. Murphy was a member of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Topeka Inc., the National Society of CLU's, the International Board of Certified Financial Planners, the Topeka Estate Planning council, the Topeka Country Club, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, the Downtown Topeka Lions Club, the Cosmopolitan Club, Masonic Lodge and the NE Kansas Shriners, where he was active as a Greeter, a member of the Golfers' Unit and the Legion of Honor. He served two terms as National Trustee for the General Agents and Managers Association and was selected as "Man of the year—Hall of Fame" in 1987 for the Kansas Association. He was on the Central Budget Committee for our local Greater Topeka United Way for 10 years, was a Past President, Lay Advisory Board of the St. Francis Hospital, and served two years as Finance Chairman for the Jayhawk Area Boy Scouts of America. Tom was Past President of Topeka Fellowship Inc., the group that puts on the Kansas Prayer Breakfast each year, and was a member of the Ichabod Club, Jayhawk Club, Kaw Valley Catbackers, Rendezvous Dance Club, Knife and Fork Club, St. Patrick's Day Committee, Topeka Civic Theatre and local Parkinson's Board. He retired as the New York Life Managing Partner in Topeka in April of 1988 and had been self employed as a Certified Financial Planner ever since, doing business as "Who is Tom Murphy?" He loved going to the office every day and had a passion for golf,

watching sports events and playing bridge. His biggest interest was his family. He is survived by his wife, Marge, whom he met in college and married in 1948. They had 7 daughters and three sons; Erin, Tim, Pat, Mike, Sean, Pegeen, Megan, Brigid, Sheilah and Tara and 16 wonderful grandchildren. His two sisters preceded him in death. Tom was cremated and his ashes will be buried at a later date. A Memorial service will be held Saturday, July 27th at Most Pure Heart of Mary church at 11am. In place of flowers, please send your remembrances to Boys and Girls Club and The Topeka Rescue Mission in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd., Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ Thomas "Tom" C. Murphy

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

MJ

“ Marge and Family, we were sorry to hear of Tom's passing. We enjoyed visiting with Tom as a Shrine Brother and fellow golfer. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

Mike & Judy Jenks - July 26, 2013 at 02:19 PM

DC

“ To all the Murphy Family,

So very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all in this difficult time. Peace

Douglas Cafer - July 26, 2013 at 12:10 PM

JP

“ July 25, 2013

Dear Marge and family,

Please accept Don and my sympathy on the lost of Tom. What a wonderful person and a role model too, for many. Thank you for sharing him with our community. Words say very little at a time like this, but knowing people care and thinking of you, maybe helps. We hope so.

Jackie Campbell Petersen - July 25, 2013 at 03:39 PM

VM

“ Marge and Family, Please accept my heartfelt condolences for your great loss. I always thought Tom to be a kind, generous, and thoughtful man. I was proud to be able to say I knew "Who Is Tom Murphy". You all will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Vickie "Claycamp" McGee - July 25, 2013 at 01:25 PM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all in your time of need.

The Gerald Bond Family - July 24, 2013 at 02:45 PM

GC

“ I started in the life insurance in 1955 and Tom Murphy was a hero to many of us. He started about 12 of us on the path of becoming CLU, was always open to share ideas we could use. Never a doubt who was in charge. He was my mentor.

Glen F Davis CLU - July 23, 2013 at 10:58 PM

JR

“ Dear Mrs. Murphy and Family,
Tom was a great guy and met with us several years ago at NYL--he was the most knowledgeable person ever and really helped us with financial questions we had. It was so nice of him to spend time with us. We know he will be greatly missed. May the Lord be with you and your family always--Jamey and Jerry Raab

Jamey Warren Raab - July 23, 2013 at 09:34 PM

HH

“ Marge I was sorry to hear about your husband passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Take care, Hannelore

Hannelore Herman - July 23, 2013 at 01:57 PM

AC

“ To the entire Murphy family, Growing up across the street and being close in age to Sheilah and Tara, I spent a lot of my childhood in the Murphy home. I remember Tom Murphy as having a kind word for all and an infectious spirit. He was so good at connecting with everyone. He was always genuinely interested in what was happening with you and knew just what to say that mattered to you! He was such a positive influence on me and all of the Clelands. He will be missed. My sympathies to the entire Murphy clan.

Aric Cleland - July 22, 2013 at 04:08 PM

MA

“ Erin, I remember your Dad taking us to a school event one time in the Blue and White Edsel station wagon,he loved that caz. We got caught in a down pouring rain in the underpass leaving West Hills, the car starting floating and we waited it out till the water started draining. We were having so much fun and I'm sure he was at his last nerve but never showed it.
Your Dad was a real gentleman and honest person who took great pride in his Family. I'm sorry for your loss,please, pass that on to your Mom and the rest of your Familij.

Marge(walters)Cooper - July 22, 2013 at 12:35 PM

SS

“ My condolences and prayers for the entire Murphy family on the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. His presence here will be missed, but his soul lives on in the many lives he touched, and the smiles he left with others. I know he has a special place in the heavenly choir, what a presence was he at MPH!

May he rest in peace and may the many memories bring you comfort.

Susan Swalwell - July 22, 2013 at 10:38 AM

FW

“ Dear Erin, Benno, Brian, Andrea, Heather:

We have loved him in life; let us not forget him in death. Tom served his Lord, his family, his country. "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. I am going away to prepare a place for you, so that where I am you also may be." Tom heard the invitation to come home last Friday to the Lord. May he rest in peace! I will offer a Mass for Tom and for you in your time of sorrow.

Fr. William - July 21, 2013 at 08:15 PM

CZ

“ Megan and the entire Murphy family,
I was so sorry to hear of your father's passing. May he rest in peace in the loving arms of God in Heaven. You are in my thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult loss in your lives. Please know I remember fondly going to church at MPH and sitting close to your family and also knowing you Megan as we were growing up in Topeka. I send you all much love and prayers. Respectfully yours,
Christine (Milazzo) Zeller

Christine (Milazzo) Zeller - July 21, 2013 at 06:05 PM

NU

“ *Thinking of the entire family and wishing you peace. May memories bring you comfort.*

New Century Credit Union - July 21, 2013 at 11:26 AM

CS

“ Mrs. Murphy & Family, We were so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was such a caring individual. He helped our whole family very much & we will always be grateful. May the Lord Welcome him with open arms.

Both of us have health problems which prohibit us from attending the service, but we will keep him in our prayers.

Carroll & Laura Schraeder

Carroll & Laura Schraeder - July 21, 2013 at 11:20 AM

CD

“ Megan and family,
I'm sorry to hear about your Dad. I will always remember him smiling. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers.

Cheryl (Martin) Dew

Cheryl (Martin) Dew - July 21, 2013 at 09:29 AM

HI

“ Tom Who? He was a fine man. Apparently not for the Grue knows not what you speak of.

Harold Jones, IV - July 20, 2013 at 05:05 PM

CB

“ Tom was such a loving, caring, passionate, optimistic, and debonair man. Our family is ever grateful to him for getting our dad's start with New York Life, but even more so, for our lifelong relationships with the Murphy family. Our loss of Tom is heaven's gain of a towering angel with a heart of gold. Blessings to all of Tom's family. All my love, Cheri Byard

Cheri Byard - July 20, 2013 at 04:51 PM