



Thomas Woltkamp

July 11, 1953 - August 4, 2021

Thomas L. “Tom” Woltkamp, 68, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on August 4, 2021, at home surrounded by family.

Tom was born on July 11, 1953, to Fred and Mary Doris Woltkamp. He was a resident of Topeka, Kansas and a prominent business owner for more than 46 years. Tom was best known around town for his giving nature. A kind man who rarely met a stranger, Tom had a quick wit and cool demeanor that made anyone in his presence feel important and cared for. He attended Topeka area schools and graduated from Hayden High School in 1971. He started Woltkamp Construction in 1975 and remained in business up until the day of his passing. He married Darchelle Shockley in 1988 and they raised three children together.

Tom enjoyed buying and restoring classic cars. He would not hesitate to knock on a stranger’s door if there was a tarp on the property that resembled the shape of a car he happened to be looking for. He also enjoyed playing golf and having meals with friends and family. He was well known for his generosity whether it simply be giving advice or, very often, purchasing a meal for someone in need or in uniform.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Linda Woltkamp and his son Tony Woltkamp.

Tom is survived by his significant other and best friend, Darchelle Woltkamp. He is also survived by his daughters, A.M. Woltkamp of Colorado and Melissa (Lee) Renfro of New Mexico. Those who will also miss Tom are his grandchildren, Anthony and James Renfro; along with numerous business associates and many lifelong friends who were truly extended family.

Visitation will be on Saturday, August 7, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS 66614, followed by a graveside service at Mount Calvary Cemetery at 1:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Ascend Hospice, Lawrence, Kansas or the Topeka Rescue Mission and sent in care of the funeral home,.

You may leave condolences or stories for the family at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Graveside Service

AUG 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Mount Calvary Cemetery
801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Woltkamp*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I'm sorry to hear about Tom. We're going to miss his smiling face coming in Taco Al's getting his 4 tacos with meat and lettuce only with extra meat and large Pepsi extra extra ice. Carla and Taco Al's employees*

carla - August 18, 2021 at 12:09 AM



“ *Chris Paap lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp*



Chris Paap - August 12, 2021 at 10:57 PM



“ *Tom was awesome inside and out.....he will be dearly missed.....does anyone know how he passed.*

Candace Shelley Becker - August 11, 2021 at 10:57 PM

DL

“ *Damon Lewis lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp*



Damon Lewis - August 09, 2021 at 09:24 AM

CY

“ *My heart is heavy with sadness with the loss of your dear Tom. He will be missed by many. What a kind, generous friend he was and I am thankful to have known him all these years. One happy memory is when Tom opened his home to many of us class of '66 girls and what a time we had, laughing and talking late into the night. He couldn't do enough for us and brought us breakfast the next morning. Rest in Peace, dear friend. My love and prayers are with you all. Cheryl Yost*

Cheryl Yost - August 08, 2021 at 12:57 PM

JS

“ *Jim Seery lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp*



Jim Seery - August 08, 2021 at 10:52 AM

ML

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Tom through his amazing work with Ross Freeman and the Pioneer Group. Tom and I worked closely together on the restoration of the Historic Dillon House and became quite close.

His passing leaves a large hole in the community, the historic restoration world, and everyone he came in contact with.

I am honored to have called him friend, and I send my most heartfelt condolences to his friends and family.

Michael Langfitt - August 07, 2021 at 06:40 PM

DW

“ I was heartbroken to hear of Tom’s death...what a character he was! I’ve known Tom since before grade school, as our parents were good friends, and attended MPH and Hayden with him. He grew from a mischievous kid to a true gentleman, but never lost that orneriness! My deepest sympathy to his family, but wishing you comfort in knowing he will be missed but never forgotten. May he Rest In Peace. ❤️

Debbie White - August 07, 2021 at 05:00 PM

SM

“ Stacey Martinez lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp



Stacey Martinez - August 07, 2021 at 09:59 AM

DH

“ I started out getting to know Tom as his hairstylist, I like to think through the years we became friends. Tom always showed up for his appointments with a smile on his face. I would always ask him how he was doing and I would always receive the same response every time “Perfect”. He never understood how I failed to see the perfection. He also felt that it was his responsibility to let any male clients that had appointments after his to know that 1) He was a long term client and look what being a long term client had got him. When he first started coming in, he had a full head of hair. 2) he also wanted everyone to know, I charged him full price for his haircuts and it was quite obvious that he was not getting a full haircut. I always had to tell him that yes he was getting an entire haircut, his haircut just didn't take quite as long as maybe some others did. I also had to remind him that, as a salon, we valued all of our customers, regardless of how much hair they had, or didn't have. Tom always had a way of including everyone in the salon into whatever conversations we were having at the time. Normally those conversations ended with everyone laughing.

To the family, I am so sorry for your loss, I know there are no words. Tom never knew a stranger and was always willing to help out where ever he could. Through out our numerous conversations it was very clear that each and every single one of you were his pride and joy. You were his family and to Tom family was everything. You are all in my thoughts and in my prayers.

Deanna Henderson

Deanna Henderson - August 06, 2021 at 10:18 PM

CB

“ Tom will be missed by all....he truly was a great guy. He hung around with my brother a lot in school and they were good friends. In the good old days a lot of us use to go to Green Parrot which was like a Cheers bar.....and I would run into Tom and we cheered a few...especially the komocasi drink. Rest in piece my dear friend. Gone to soon and my thoughts and prayers with his family.

Candace Shelley Becker - August 06, 2021 at 08:51 PM

CD

“ Tom was a good friend. I knew him from grade school. Most recently we served on the county permit committee. He was fun to be around and very resourceful. He will be missed.

Chuck Dultmeier - August 06, 2021 at 07:35 PM

SS

“ So sorry for your loss Tom and I spent years together as friends growing up. He will be missed

steve Shelley - August 06, 2021 at 05:59 PM

PS

“ Paul Segerson lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp



Paul Segerson - August 06, 2021 at 03:13 PM

MB

“ *Mary Bond Bonham lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp*



Mary Bond Bonham - August 06, 2021 at 02:55 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Thomas Woltkamp.*



August 06, 2021 at 02:40 PM

JJ

“ *Jennifer Jones lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp*



Jennifer Jones - August 06, 2021 at 02:24 PM

CH

“ *Carol Hebert purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Thomas Woltkamp.*



Carol Hebert - August 06, 2021 at 02:10 PM

BM

“ *Such a kind soul. I worked for an electrical contractor for several years, and we did work with Tom. I truly enjoyed his visits to the office. Sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for his family and friends.*

Bobbi K Mangas - August 06, 2021 at 02:00 PM

DS

“ *Woltkamp Family,
Tom will dearly be missed. I had the pleasure of working on alot of his jobs thru the years with Modern Air of Topeka to my current position as inspector for the City. One thing that always impressed me is he knew everyone on the jobsite by name from the new guy on the site all the way up to the guys that owned the companies. I will miss our interactions on jobs and my heart goes out to the family. RIP Tom*

Dustin Schuh - August 06, 2021 at 01:27 PM

BC

“ *Darchelle & Family*

I opened the paper today and saw Tom's obit, I'm so sorry for your loss. I met Tom thru Capital City Oil where I worked back in the early 80's. Tom was a great Guy, The last time i spoke to him was a few years back. Back in the Day, Marvin Spee's myself, and Tom helped Tear down the old hospital where he built his home in Potwin, that was fun!!! I know he is now in a better place, but he will be missed. God Bless You and your Family thru this time of need.

Bruce Couch



Bruce Couch - August 06, 2021 at 12:36 PM

JM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Tom was an amazing man and was so good to me growing up. I never got the chance to thank him for that or any of you for that matter. Thank you so much and I want to send my condolences to the whole family.*

Johna Machac - August 06, 2021 at 12:12 PM

JD

“ I'm very sad to hear this news, sending my condolences to the family. I met Tom years ago as we shared a love for Lincolns and talked about cars every time we would run into each other I even had the privilege to buy ABE the loved Lincoln Towncar by the whole family is how he told me, and said the only way he would sell it to me is if I kept calling the car Abe and treated as a member of the family. You will be missed my friend rest easy.

Jacque L. Duchesneau

Jacque L. Duchesneau - August 06, 2021 at 12:06 PM

FW

“ Darchelle and family: I read with sadness of Tom's passing. I met Tom early in my real estate career and never worked with any builder of higher caliber than Tom. I brought him a build job for some lovely customers and finances were tight so I agreed to take a very low commission to make this work. After closing, Tom asked me to wait and presented me with a check saying the job had gone splendidly and he wanted to reward me. Never in my 32-year career did that happen again!. Tom was a wonderful person and I so enjoyed knowing him and seeing him from time to time—truly a kind, ethical man.

Faye Wilson - August 06, 2021 at 11:39 AM

SS

“ Simeon Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp



Simeon Schmidt - August 06, 2021 at 09:47 AM

KC

“ Darchelle thank you so much for sharing Tom with me on this day. I thought this day was for Tom but it turns out this day was for me to have a special memory of me and my friend. Tom was a wonderful man who I was blessed to work with for 16 years and will be deeply missed. I will miss Tom's funny stories, his jokes, his hugs but mostly I will miss my friend who I was Blessed to have shared a moment in time with him. Sending you Hugs and my condolences.

Respectfully,

Kitty Carr



Kitty Carr - August 06, 2021 at 08:59 AM

LH

“ To all the family and close friends, I will consider myself one of the lucky ones, who got to know Tom through working with him on several of the big projects he did here in town. He was organized, easy going and great to work with. I loved his sense of humor! He was truly one of the good guys, and I will miss him. <3 My thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Remembering him,

Leslie Hallgren

Leslie Hallgren - August 06, 2021 at 06:22 AM

EL

“ *Erin Lambert lit a candle in memory of
Thomas Woltkamp*



Erin Lambert - August 05, 2021 at 07:06 PM

JS

“ I want to send my condolences to Tom’s girls and his grandkids, after every trip we swapped grandparent stories. Darchelle, he was so in love with you, he told me many times,” I don’t know what I did to deserve her”! We can all take comfort knowing he is no longer in pain.

I don’t even know where to start.... “Tommy” has been in my life for 60+ years, going back to Most Pure Heart. Somehow we were always “ Madly in love’, with the other ones best friend. Tom was always the go between. Passing notes, chewing gum, and in later years, cigarette to me. When my love interest was 2 timing me, Tom quit the notes and always told me, “ You’re too good for that bum-dump him. I was a hopeless romantic or a glutton for punishment because sometimes I thought I could change the jerk!

This continued on even at Hayden, he brought over a Sr. football player who had a cool car, and he started calling me. Tom told me in no uncertain terms that I was too sweet of a person to let that guy play around with me- it was probably almost 30 years later when Tom told me he got into a fist fight with that guy for telling me his intentions were less than honorable. Tom even told another classmate to leave me alone one night at Terry’s because he had been telling me how much he loved me, and how he would never forget kissing me in church at our 1st Confession! Well, I may forget somethings, but I’m positive that newer happened! We always in alphabetical order so Tom was always close to me.

Tom has been a true friend through my life, always a straight shooter and someone who was a good listener. I had the honor of a phone call last Sunday evening. We talked about cars, fun times, that we loved each other. Even the Class of 71 Retirement Home! Now he can make it grandeur.....Heaven doesn’t allow shabby! Rest In Peace, until we meet again

Tommy..... ❤️ You and Thank You for being my friend.

Jeannie Swalwell Schnellbacher - August 05, 2021 at 06:48 PM

RM

Darchelle, so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and love ones, God Bless--Rex Musick

Rex Musick - August 06, 2021 at 12:10 PM

CR

“ *The first job i worked as an electrical foreman was one of Tom's. Any other contractor would have lost his head with some of the goof ups I made. Tom was gentle and encouraging to me which led me to be able to go on and run multiple other projects in a much more successful manner. (For the most part 😊) I love the cuss out of the guy and I consider myself very blessed to have known him.*

Crystal Rose - August 05, 2021 at 05:17 PM

AS

“ *Amilya Sandoval purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas Woltkamp.*



Amilya Sandoval - August 05, 2021 at 04:25 PM

MH

“ *Tom and I go clear back to the day we were born, July 11th. We went to grade school together and I thought Tommy was the cutest boy with his “crew cut”, We we’re friends throughout our life and I last talked to him on our birthday a few weeks ago. Tom was the sweetest, kindest and caring person I have ever known. He adored Darchelle, his children and Grandchildren. I will miss his smiling face at our Hayden get together. Heaven gained an angel. RIP Tom. You will be missed.*
Mary Beth (Martin) Hawks

Mary (Martin) Hawks - August 05, 2021 at 04:00 PM

PT

“ Patricia Thomas lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp



Patricia Thomas - August 05, 2021 at 03:46 PM

CL

“ Cheryl & Albert Lopez lit a candle in memory of Thomas Woltkamp



Cheryl & Albert Lopez - August 05, 2021 at 03:04 PM

SG

“ My parents were close friends with Mary Doris & Fred. My mother, Mary Streff, and Mary Doris were in St. Francis hospital delivering Tom & I at the same time. Tom knew the true meaning of being a gentleman. He was one of the best!

And, ornery was one side of him that I loved. He always had a kind thing to say about you & would help in any way needed.

He was loved by many and will be missed by everyone.

Tom, may God bless you and yours. May you Rest in Peace & have perpetual light shine upon you.

Sandy (Streff) Gibson

Sandra Gibson - August 05, 2021 at 02:03 PM