



Thomas E. Draper

August 1, 1945 - February 16, 2026

Thomas “Tom” E. Draper of Centreville, MD passed away on February 16, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 80 years old.

Tom’s smile lit a room with joy, and he was known for the warmth, kindness, and quiet strength he shared freely with others. He lived a life defined by service—to his country, his community, his family, and the many friends who were fortunate to know him.

Born on August 1, 1945, Tom was the son of the late Frank W. Draper, Jr., and Ruth Willis Draper in Chestertown, MD. He graduated from Centreville High School in 1963 and earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland in 1967.

Following graduation, Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army. He completed the Infantry Officer Candidate Course and the Officer Candidate Tactical Officer Training Course and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1969. During his service, he saw combat in the Vietnam War. After three years of honorable service, he resigned his commission as a First Lieutenant. In recognition of his courage, sacrifice, and dedication, Tom was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star, and numerous other commendations.

After returning home, Tom dedicated many years to public service through a career with Maryland’s Division of Parole and Probation. Upon retirement, he pursued a lifelong passion by founding Draper’s Landscape Business. Combining his love of horticulture with a strong work ethic, Tom built a loyal clientele throughout Queen Anne’s County and took great pride in the beauty he created for others.

Tom was deeply committed to his community and served as a Past Commander of the Jeff Davis Post #18 of the American Legion. A member of the Centreville Lions Club for 40 years, Tom served many roles from Lion Tamer to President. He was also involved in the Queen Anne’s County Sportsman’s Club cofounded by his father.

A passionate sportsman, Tom had a lifelong passion for the outdoors. He especially loved chasing rockfish, bird hunting, and fox hunting.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 50 years, Kathryn H. Draper, his sisters Julia D. Corder and Jane D. Everett; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his siblings, Frank W. Draper III, Ann Draper Tikiob, John W. Draper, and Susan Draper Whaley.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 25 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home, 408 South Liberty Street, Centreville, MD 21617. A memorial service will take place on February 26, at 11:00 a.m., at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, in Centreville. Interment will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Compass Hospice, 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617 or to a charity of one's choice.

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Centreville Location
408 South Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617
(410) 758-1151
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

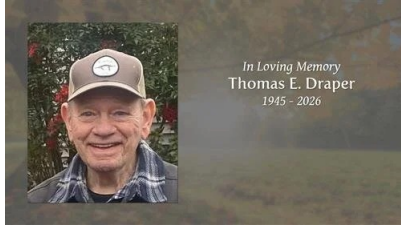
FEB **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Centreville Location
408 South Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617
(410) 758-1151
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 25 at 11:30 AM

JD

My brother Tom was everything to me.

Jane draper - March 10 at 06:05 PM

JR

“ *Jenny Rhodes lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Jenny Rhodes - March 02 at 03:28 PM

LR

“ *Kathy, Charlie and I want to express our deepest sympathy . I have read these memories posted and many have expressed what a great legacy Tommy will leave . I especially loved Kate Drapers poem . May Gods peace and comfort embrace you . Laura and Charlie Roth*

laura roth - February 28 at 07:13 PM

BS

“ *Bibi Schelberg lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



bibi schelberg - February 26 at 08:26 AM

SS

“ I will forever miss seeing his smiling face walk through the doors to have lunch at Docs. I loved hearing his stories about growing up in Centreville. He just made me smile. Kathy, you are in my prayers. Love you!! Susie

Susie Spencer - February 25 at 07:36 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Draper.



February 25 at 07:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas E. Draper.

February 25 at 07:18 AM

EC

“ Elizabeth C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas E. Draper.

Elizabeth C. - February 24 at 10:17 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Draper.



February 24 at 10:08 AM

DP

“ Doug Pierson lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Doug Pierson - February 24 at 08:04 AM

SS

“ Sharon Starkey lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Sharon Starkey - February 23 at 06:40 PM

LD

“ Lawrence Dunn lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Lawrence Dunn - February 23 at 05:45 PM

“ I first met Tom Draper (soon to be "tommy" for close to 60 years as I became "Dickie.") in the late afternoon of June 3, 1968. I am sure of the date because that was the day we both enlisted in the Army for Officer Candidate School (OCS) At Ft. Holabird, in the SE corner of Baltimore. We were standing on Dundalk, Ave. waiting for a bus tot he train station. From there were headed to Ft. Dix, NJ for Basic and Advanced Infantry Training.

When we arrived at the Reception Center at Fr. Dix in the middle of the night we drifted apart. We did end up in the same training company, but in different platoons, so we didn't see much of each other. At the end of training cycle we were held over for a short while and then headed to Advanced Individual Training (AIT). There we we bunk mates (I had the lower) and stayed together the entire time, sharing what went on.

.Finishing in New Jersey, we were enrout to Georgia. tom took his car and I rode with him. Upon arrival we were assigned to the same platoon and shared a two-man cubicle for 6+ months, trying to survive and get a commission as a Second Lieutenant. In addition to learning about leadership, the Army and the Infantry, we also acquired other skills. Tom became master of the floor polishing machine. He could raise a shine bright enough to shave in. Mine was more pedestrian. My squad as responsible for cleaning the shower/bathroom. I became the commode/urinal guy, cleaning them nights and mornings..

Tom's primary desires were to serve his country, do his enlistment period in the Army and go home. However, his natural leadership skills kept getting in his way. Upon receiving our commissions, I headed to Louisiana to a training company. Tom was among the few selected to stay at Ft. Benning as a Tactical officer and work with other OCS candidates. I headed to Viet Nam and an Infantry Platoon Leader in the 25th Infantry Division. Tom came after me and was in a battalion in the same division. However, we were never able to link up. One or the other of us were always in the field when the other showed up for a visit.

Upon the completion of his Viet Nam tour Tom again received an elite assignment, being selected as a member of the Old Guard at Frt. Myer, VA and Arlington National Cemetery. There only a few problems. He hated spit and polish; he didn't want any involvement in ceremonial activities, just to serve his remaining few months and go home; and he wasn't tall enough (which actually insulted him). The officers in the unit were all at least 6' tall. So he stayed with my family in Arlington while it was sorted out and i saw him on weekends. He finally was assigned to ft. Holabird, where I was also stationed and where we had started. almost three years earlier.

We served together on the Post Staff and socialized over the next four months until Tom "mustered out." He went home to Centreville. But we kept in touch and he was the best man at my wedding to my late wife Nancy the following September. And then we went our separate ways for a long time. Both of us being bad correspondents, we last contact over the years. Nancy and I and a growing brood of kids moved to Georgia (twice), Germany, Virginia, New Hampshire and, finally, back to Maryland. Meanwhile, Tom had stayed put settling deep into Centreville, meeting his lovely wife Kathy and enjoying Eastern Shore life.

Our "reunion" years later was almost a fluke. On a whim when traveling through Centreville we stopped at the Draper Brothers' Liquor Store to see if Tom was one of the brothers. Turned out that he was, but not one of the store brothers. We got contact info and eventually picked where we had left off years before. After Nancy passed away Tom made a point of connecting with me and helping me work through my grief. later, when I remarried, my wife Fran had the pleasure of meeting Tom and Kathy and getting to experience the Eastern Shore. Tom Draper was a gentleman of the old school. I miss you brother RJM

richard martiny - February 23 at 12:29 PM

NK

“ Tommy and Kathy were wonderful neighbors to my parents (the Bornhoefts) for more than 40 years. Tom kept an eye on Mom and Dad's home when they retired and spent winters in The Keys. My siblings and I will always be grateful for Tom's kindness, patience, and helping hand as Dad aged and his health declined. No one could have asked for nicer neighbors than Tom and Kathy, as the Figliozzi family has discovered since buying my late parents' home almost 7 years ago. Our prayers and condolences go out to Kathy and all Tommy's family and friends.

Nancy and Mike Koval - February 23 at 10:02 AM

LH

“ Lyn Higdon lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Lyn Higdon - February 22 at 07:05 PM

GP

“ Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - February 22 at 03:49 PM

GP

Kathy: our prayers and many blessings are with you during the loss of Tom. What a great friend and "Cuz". We called each other cuz for many years. He will surely be missed in the Community and his love for others will never be forgotten. Please know we care and pray for you. I cannot get to the services, as I have been in the hospital and cannot be around a lot of people right now. We will be praying. God bless and know others surely care. Love and blessings, Gene and Lynda Palmatary

Gene and Lynda Palmatary - February 22 at 03:54 PM

CL

“ Kathy,, I bid you peace this day knowing Tom, is in heaven. Bless your long marriage. Love always,, Carol Luongo,Easton MD 2-22-26



Carol. Luongo - February 22 at 01:17 PM

ML

“ Ms. Kathy, you are in my thoughts and prayers 🙏. Mr. Tommy was such a nice man. I lived next to him and Ms.Kathy in my younger years. He always wore a smile.



Melissa Lenzi - February 22 at 05:25 AM

HR

“ I got to know Tom through Parole & Probation as an agent from Cambridge. He was highly respected by everyone and was a genuine gentleman. I will truly miss seeing him at our luncheon get togethers. Rest in peace my brother.

Hobart L Rogers - February 21 at 07:33 PM

BN

“ We were blessed to have known such a fine person. He is one of the best. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Buster & Sharon Nelson

Buster Nelson - February 20 at 09:26 PM

GF

“ Mr. Draper,

For the short time that I knew you, about six years or so, the time we shared together, and the memories we made were very special to me. You brought an interest out in me for the outdoors and adventure. You taught me so much about the world we live in, politics, and the town where you grew up. I even wrote my college essay about you. Mr. Draper, you truly are a big part of who I am today and what my life will become in the future.

*I will miss you dearly,
Gianni Figliozi*

Gianni Figliozi - February 20 at 07:57 PM

SF

“ Tom E Draper, the kindest, softest spoken man I know. My friend, my neighbor, my mentor. You will always be remembered for your kindness, service, smile but for me most of all your knowledge. I will never forget our friendship and the time I spent listening to your words of wisdom. You were a true historian. I am blessed to have been your friend and neighbor. My heart is broken.
Thank you sir for watching over us now as I know you are smiling down on us.
Stephen Figliozi

Stephen Figliozi - February 20 at 06:02 PM

JC

“ Jane Coppage lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Jane Coppage - February 20 at 04:46 PM

BP

“ Bill And Norma Patton lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Bill and Norma Patton - February 20 at 01:53 PM

KA

“ To the best smoked fish
To the kindest heart
The most comforting hug
To the biggest smile
To the warmest eyes
To the worlds best laugh
To the jokes, to the joy, to the service
To making others feel seen.
Thank you, dear uncle Tom for existing.

KateDraper - February 20 at 01:39 PM

MS

“ Dear Kathy,
The Joe Scharnus family are so sorry for your loss, may Tom be at peace in the arms of our loving father where there is rest and eternal life.
Joe and Mollie

Mollie Scharnus - February 20 at 01:34 PM

MH

“ Michele Hampton lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Michele Hampton - February 20 at 01:04 PM

HH

“ Harriette Hall lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Harriette Hall - February 20 at 12:30 PM

BN

“ Bob And Genevieve Norris sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Bob and Genevieve Norris - February 20 at 12:22 PM

JS

“ John Sharp lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



John Sharp - February 20 at 12:10 PM

C1

“ Centreville High School Class Of 1966. sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Centreville High School Class of 1966. - February 20 at 11:27 AM

C1

Kathy: Class of 1966 has lost a great friend. He loved our class so much and always enjoyed our reunions and parties. He would kid and say he graduated in 1963 and 1966. It was always a pleasure to see him and you. He was a great supporter and the memories will remain with us forever. He will always be in our hearts. Prayers and blessings to you and your family. God Bless. CHS Class of 1966.

Centreville High School Class of 1966. - February 20 at 11:32 AM

JW

“ Our condolence's to Mrs. Draper and Family. May Mr. Tom rest in peace. Jeffrey and Teresa Wolfe and Family

Jeffrey Wolfe - February 20 at 11:13 AM

JM

“ Joe Mullikin sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Joe Mullikin - February 20 at 10:18 AM

JL

“ Jennifer Laird sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Jennifer Laird - February 20 at 09:24 AM

FP

“ Frank And Tish Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Frank and Tish Palmatary - February 20 at 01:26 AM

FP

Prayers to your family at this time. Tom will be missed in the Community, as he was a good friend to many. God bless. Frank and Tish Palmatary

Frank and Tish Palmatary - February 22 at 07:12 PM

MA

“ Kathy:
We are praying for you and our thoughts are with you and the rest of the Draper family at this time. May your faith continue to keep you comforted.

Mitchell and Tami Andrew

Mitchell C Andrew - February 19 at 04:39 PM

AG

“ Amy Benton Greenwood lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Amy Benton Greenwood - February 19 at 03:22 PM

NN

“ Dear Kathy, It goes without saying that I will miss my "cuz" Tommy very much. Phil and I send our sympathies and warm thoughts, remembering a wonderful man who will be missed. Nellie Nones



Nellie Nones - February 19 at 10:58 AM

SH

“ Tom our gentle kind neighbor with great stories to share will so be missed. RIP Wayne & Shirley K

Shirley - February 19 at 09:48 AM

BN

“ Barbara K Nelson lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Barbara k Nelson - February 19 at 09:23 AM

BL

“ Never met Tommy when his eyes didn't smile just as much as his lips. Always wanted to know how you were doing. We always walked away feeling better after talking to him.

Bill & Helen Lampman - February 19 at 08:36 AM

MH

“ Mary Houtz lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Mary Houtz - February 19 at 08:28 AM

MH

Kathy, I give you my heartfelt love.

Mary Houtz - February 25 at 08:57 AM

LJ

“ *Linda M. Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Linda M. Jefferson - February 18 at 10:13 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Draper.*



February 18 at 10:00 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas E. Draper.*

February 18 at 10:00 PM

MK

“ *Tom and I were classmates at Centreville High School ---- class of 1963. We were also teammates on the school's basketball and baseball teams. We were good friends then and for all the years since. I will miss him most sincerely. My heart goes out to Kathy for her loss. Tom was a wonderful person. May God bless Tom and Kathy.
from Mike Kader, Wye Mills, MD*

Michael Kader - February 18 at 09:57 PM

DS

“ *Debra Srahl-Curdts lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Debra Srahl-Curdts - February 18 at 08:40 PM

JP

“ JoAnn & Royden Powell lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



JoAnn & Royden Powell - February 18 at 08:01 PM

AW

“ Andy And Agnes Wilhelm lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Andy and Agnes Wilhelm - February 18 at 07:35 PM

CL

“ Very sorry to read of Mr. Draper's passing. I wish you peace, Kathy. God bless, Carol Luongo,, Easton MD



Carol. Luongo - February 18 at 05:27 PM

MR

“ Monica Emerson Roberts lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Monica Emerson Roberts - February 18 at 04:26 PM

MF

“ Margie & JayR Freeman lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Margie & JayR Freeman - February 18 at 03:48 PM

DC

“ Donna Clough lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Donna Clough - February 18 at 03:33 PM

TW

“ Teri Wood lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Teri Wood - February 18 at 03:19 PM

BB

“ Betty Pinder Brittingham lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Betty Pinder Brittingham - February 18 at 10:47 AM

LS

“ Linda Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Linda Schmidt - February 18 at 10:33 AM

SW

“ Susan Wolff lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Susan Wolff - February 18 at 10:24 AM

JS

“ *Jane Sparks lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



jane Sparks - February 18 at 10:15 AM

PW

“ *Patti Willis lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Patti Willis - February 18 at 10:04 AM

TP

“ *Teron Pierce lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Teron Pierce - February 18 at 09:53 AM

BQ

“ *Bruce Quinn lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Bruce Quinn - February 18 at 09:50 AM

JP

“ *Janet Pauls lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Janet Pauls - February 18 at 09:49 AM

BM

“ *Barbara McCreary lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Barbara McCreary - February 18 at 09:04 AM

JD

“ *Many great memories from CHS Class of 63. Always remember his great smile and sincere interest in family everytime we met. Jim Downes*

James Downes - February 18 at 08:19 AM

BC

“ *Started in kindergarten together and went through the rest of our school days together graduating in 1963. Tommy was the best of the best. He always had a smile, kind, and sincere. Kathy, please know you are in our thoughts and may all your good memories be of Tommy make this time a little easier for you.*



Betty Churn - February 18 at 08:00 AM

LA

“ *Laird& MaryPat Adams lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Laird& MaryPat Adams - February 18 at 04:36 AM

DA

“ *Don And Judy Adkins lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Don and Judy Adkins - February 17 at 09:01 PM

JP

“ Kathy: You're in my thoughts and prayers during this sorrowful time. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone. We had one thing in common we shared the same birthday



John Payne - February 17 at 08:29 PM

JC

“ June Clark lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



June Clark - February 17 at 08:23 PM

JC

Kathy,
This past week our county has lost several men who has meant so much to the county all in different ways,, Thomas was a true .q.a county person who thought a lot about his county . He will be missed by so many

June Clark - February 17 at 08:27 PM

MK

“ Kathy, our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. Tom will be missed by many.
Butch and Margaret Kaufman

Margaret Kaufman - February 17 at 07:28 PM

CC

“ Cindy Cronshaw lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Cindy Cronshaw - February 17 at 07:10 PM

JA

“ *Jane Anthony lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Jane Anthony - February 17 at 06:41 PM

JY

“ *Kathy - We are so very sorry for Tommy's passing. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you now & in the days ahead. RIP our dear friend.*



Bill and Jane Young

Jane and Bill Young - February 17 at 06:34 PM

ME

“ *Mary Ann Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas E. Draper*



Mary Ann Edwards - February 17 at 06:06 PM

ME

Kathy I am so sorry for your loss. Tommy was such a sweet man. God Bless you and the family as you face life without your loved one. Sincerely, Mary Ann Edwards

Mary Ann Edwards - February 17 at 06:10 PM

FT

“ *Such a sweet neighbor, he will be missed. Sending prayers for Kathy and family.*



Frank & Sue Tyler - February 17 at 05:55 PM

PM

“ Patricia Mayer lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Patricia Mayer - February 17 at 05:34 PM

FS

“ Frank And Jarrett Smith lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Frank and Jarrett Smith - February 17 at 05:28 PM

TB

“ Tom & Jean Beery lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Tom & Jean Beery - February 17 at 04:44 PM

DW

“ David & Kathy Wenck lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



David & kathy Wenck - February 17 at 04:29 PM

KC

“ Kay Councill lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Kay Councill - February 17 at 04:27 PM

JS

“ Johnny Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Draper



Johnny Stubbs - February 17 at 03:40 PM

RJ

“ Ronnie And Rhonda Jewell sent a virtual gift in memory of
Thomas E. Draper



Ronnie and Rhonda Jewell - February 17 at 03:26 PM