



## Edward "Tom" Gaubatz

February 16, 1946 - March 3, 2020

Edward T. Gaubatz, known to all as Tom, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, with his daughters and long-time best friends by his side. His daughters grew up hearing stories of his youth on a farm in Iowa (including a cautionary tale about matches and a pile of hay and the virtue of Telling The Truth) and his later childhood and adolescence growing up on Chicago's South Side (including a number of stories about "Crazy Eddie" with whom Dad hung out on train trestles and semi-successfully trained some city pigeons as carrier pigeons; most of our questions about both were answered by a shrug and "to see if we could"). Tom attended Northern IL University, where he and his future wife, Sue, became friends while working in the dorm cafeteria. Twenty-odd years and one strategically traded slice of German chocolate cake later, their younger daughter would live in that very same dorm. A longtime member, then employee of St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church, Tom served his community faithfully and daily. He was proud of his work with COVE Alliance, supporting children orphaned by the AIDS crisis in Uganda. Tom donated money to add a building for the primary school at the St. Jerome campus in Kapeeka, and at the age of 65, he traveled outside the US for the first time ever to help build and dedicate this school in Sue's name. When he wasn't training pigeons or building schools, Tom enjoyed biking and running far faster and further than much younger people. He also loved music, singing, and playing guitar, and never gave up his attempts to teach his yellow lab when to come in on back-up. He will be remembered for his generosity,

brilliant humor, and gentle love by all who knew him.

Surviving are his beloved daughters, Elizabeth Carroll and Rebecca (Ross Jr.) Hugli; 2 grandchildren, Henson & Wilder; five siblings, Robert Gaubatz, Patricia (Gordon) MacDonald, Rosemary (Gary) Janssen, Evelyn Gaubatz, and David (Cindy) Gaubatz and by many nieces, nephews, honorary grandnieces and nephews, and countless dear friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sue Gaubatz on April 13, 2007, and we are sure they've already found each other.

A public visitation will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church, 236 US Hwy. 45, Indian Creek, IL, with a private one-hour family viewing prior to funeral mass on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Interment will be at Ascension Cemetery at a future date. In lieu of flowers, something that never meant much to Dad, please consider donating in his honor to a charity of your choice, or sponsoring a child or donating to the COVE Alliance in his name. Arrangements made by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, in Libertyville. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **10**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church  
236 W. Hwy 45  
Indian Creek, IL 60061

## Funeral Mass

MAR **11**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church  
236 W. Hwy 45  
Indian Creek, IL 60061

# Tribute Wall

BW

“ So sorry to hear the passing of Tom. I went to high school with him. Well I did not know him very well. it is always sad to hear of the passing of a fellow classmate

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**Bill Witkowski** - May 18, 2020 at 05:55 PM

AS

“ Dear Gaubatz Family, I new Tom ever so short a time at SMV and through COVE. He was always willing to help, with any job, and went above and beyond without asking. Nothing seemed to stop him to get the job finished! correctly!!

*I am sorry for the loss of your dad and family member, but know he fought the good fight and is now sharing in his eternal reward with his wife and extended family in heaven.*

*God Bless him and may he ever rest in the loving arms of our Lord.*

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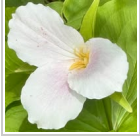
**A. Spicuzza** - March 10, 2020 at 03:53 PM

AS

*"knew not new" in first sentence*

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**A. Spicuzza** - March 10, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ *Beth and Becky. My heart goes out to you both on the loss of your wonderful Dad. I really thought he would live forever. But alas, that is never true. His lovely, quirky nature, generous spirit and faith-filled life will always be a part of you two. Time just does go by. As I reminisce on the friendship I had with your Mom (beginning when you two were young ones' in high school!) Tom was there, at her side, holding down the fort when she worked those long hours. I remember his devastation when she passed and his willingness to move forward and continue on his own path. Be comforted by the fact that he was so loved by so many.*

*Much sympathy and love,  
Laurel Kaiser (Mrs. K)*

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**Laurel Kaiser** - March 09, 2020 at 04:50 PM

SB

“ *Mr. Tom was a nice man. He love his ice cream. I enjoy working for him. His daughters did such an amazing job caring for their father. Very honored to be Your Caregiver. SABREEN BANNISTER HOME INSTEAD*

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**Sabreen Bannister** - March 09, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ *Tom was such an amazingly kind and loving person. He had such a great sense of humor and was always a calming influence. He stayed with us for a bit in Schiller Park between jobs and then Sue moved in also for a short time when Katie was a little baby. It was an honor to witness the inherently wonderful people they were. I am just so happy knowing that they are together again. Tom was a gentle loving person. He will be deeply missed by all who benefited from his devotion to living a life of giving. Thank you Tom.*

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**Margy Gaubatz** - March 07, 2020 at 06:34 PM

PS

“ Going back to SMV camping trips and Family CCD in 1985, (before the Finnegan center was built), we had fun with Tom and Sue and the girls out at Stronghold in Oregon, IL. Songs around the campfire with little ones on our laps, singing and clapping - those were good times! Our family condolences to your family. Blessing to all of you. Phil & Linda Simonpietri and kids.

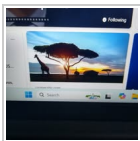
Phil Simonpietri - March 06, 2020 at 01:40 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Edward "Tom" Gaubatz.



March 06, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ I got to know Tom in 2005 when we both came together to help start COVE Alliance. We were on the Board together for many years and I always valued his insight. We shared two trips to Uganda and on those trips Tom was always busy. He frequently said he didn't want to go unless he had a project. Those projects included carpentry, repairing desk AND entertaining the children with his guitar playing and singing. It was a joy to watch him interact with the children. Both Tom and Sue did much for COVE but he never looked for accolades. In fact he was uncomfortable during the dedication of the Sue Gaubatz Building when Bishop Paul had him come forward to address the group. I will most certainly miss you, Tom. Rest in peace.

Darlene Frantoni

Darlene Frantoni - March 05, 2020 at 05:02 PM