



Thomas Patrick Cefai

June 17, 1961 - August 18, 2025

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Tom spent his early years in Pontiac and Orchard Lake, MI, with his parents and eight siblings, swimming, exploring, and being a really curious and active soul.

Tom attended Pontiac Catholic High School before moving to Austin, TX, where he graduated from Round Rock High School. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education from Midwestern State University in Waco, Texas, before returning to Waterford, MI, where he lived for several years. Tom eventually moved back to Austin, where he spent the remainder of his life working in the retail industry.

Tom was a Christian who believed that the road to a fulfilling life was through faith, love, and charity. He was a humble and resilient man, and he remained hopeful in the face of adversity. In spite of challenges laid at his feet, Tom always moved forward, buoyed by his faith, and never flagging in his desire to know, help, and inspire other people through words, deeds, and music, which he truly loved.

Among the last videos Tom posted on social media was a song whose

message conveyed that the writer believed in love, and he wanted others to know that before he died. After all he experienced of life, that is a message Tom would surely have wanted all of us to know.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Anthony, his mother, Colette, his brother, Paul, and his sister-in-law, Nancy.

Tom is survived by his five brothers, Mike (Nancy), Robert (Anthony), David, Tim, and John (Clarice); two sisters, Susan (Paul), and Christine; nieces, Shelly (Dino) , Becca (Ed), Rachel (Kenneth), and Nikki; nephews, Adam (Jessica) , Justin (Rebekkah), and Will; great-nieces, Alexa (Matt), Alea (Andrew), Kate and Emma; great-nephews, A.J.(Brooke), Nino (Jeremiah), Aiden, Lucas, Levi and Owen, and great-great nephew, Dino.

Memorial Services will be held in Texas on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., at Northwest Fellowship Church, 13427 Pond Springs Rd., 101B, Austin TX 78729. A funeral service and burial of Tom's ashes will be held in Michigan on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 25800 W. 10 Mile Rd., Southfield MI 48033.

In lieu of flowers, I think Tom would like donations to your favorite charity.

Previous Events

Memorial

SEP **27**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Northwest Fellowship Church
13427 Pond Springs Rd
101B
Austin, TX 78729
<https://northwestfellowship.com/>

Tribute Wall

TC

“When I think of my brother, Tom, I think of a multidimensional person who moved with momentum through life. Tom had a strong set of values built on Christianity and faith. He was a thoughtful, humble, forgiving and charitable man. Tom gave to so many causes throughout his lifetime, especially those devoted to helping others who were struggling, suffering, or were not well off. Tom gave even when he had nothing left to give.

Tom loved people in a kind of transcendent way. He was inspired by others, and he, in turn, did his best to inspire and uplift those around him.

Tom was a lover of music, and he shared songs he liked on a regular basis, and he would invite others to celebrate music however they could. I remember returning home from work once, and discovering an electric piano in my driveway. There was a note from Tom attached saying that I needed to get back to playing the piano because, “it felt neglected.”

Tom could have a goofy, yet gentle, sense of humor, and it was a delight to laugh along with him when he found something funny.

Tom was also a study in courage. He had some real challenges laid at his feet, but he didn't withdraw, or become bitter, or feel sorry for himself. Rather, he moved towards people, and sought out others with whom he could talk, and receive counsel. Tom drew strength from community, and he, in turn, would give strength to those dealing with challenges of their own, through his words, through his deeds, or through prayer.

The other day, I was listening to voicemails from Tom that were saved to my phone. In many of his messages, he said he was just checking in, and that he wanted to wish me well. In other messages, he'd let me know what he was doing to take care of himself, jobs he was applying for, plans he was making, including plans to slow down when he thought he was moving too fast, or doing too much.

In one message, after learning that I'd injured myself, Tom said that he was thinking of me, and he admonished me to take better care of myself. He ended that message by telling me there were going to be "brighter days ahead...brighter days!"

And after a driving trip to Austin, as I was returning home, Tom texted me to say that he hoped I wasn't reading his text while I was driving. He then said that he hoped my trip was going 'lovely', and that he missed me already. I miss you too, Tom, and I hope your trip to your everlasting home is going 'lovely' as well.

Tim Cefai - September 22, 2025 at 12:38 PM

TC

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Tim Cefai - September 18, 2025 at 09:38 AM

TC

“ *By A Departing Light*

*By a departing light
We see acuter, quite,
Than by a wick that stays.
There's something in the flight
That clarifies the sight
And decks the rays.*

--Emily Dickinson



Tim Cefai - September 10, 2025 at 03:58 PM

RC

“ R.I.P. brother. You're truly in eternal peace now.



Robert Cefai - September 09, 2025 at 09:16 PM

JC

“ We miss you, Tom; you left us too soon. John, Clarice, Will, and Nikki

jcwn - September 08, 2025 at 06:41 PM

SU

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Susan - September 08, 2025 at 06:27 PM

SU

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Susan - September 08, 2025 at 06:17 PM