



Thomas Edward Raab

June 18, 1962 - January 7, 2025

Thomas Edward Raab passed away on January 7, 2025 surrounded by the love of his family.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 17th at Guardian Angels Church. Visitation will be from 10am to 11am. Mass will start at 11am and there will be a small gathering in the parish hall after the conclusion of church services.

(Guardian Angels Church 1310 Westport Road Kansas City, MO 64111)

We also encourage anyone to join members of the family for a celebration of life at Westport Flea Market from 4pm to 11pm. The family is excited to see anyone that can attend, please note, this event is “no-host” and those that join will be able to order their own food and drinks.

(Westport Flea Market 817 Westport Road Kansas City, MO 64111)

Thomas (Tom) was born on June 18, 1962, in Kansas City, MO to Louis and Kathryn Raab. Being the last of five children, he was affectionately referred to as the “caboose.” While babied by his sister Joanie, Tom remained the rambunctious little brother to Mark, Steve, and Mike.

As a youth, Tom's days were filled with riding his bike, playing tennis, and running around the neighborhood with his brothers and friends. He attended Guardian Angels elementary school and would go on to graduate from Rockhurst High School. He then attended The University of Kansas and pledged to Pi Kappa Alpha (Pikes), the same fraternity as his brothers. Tom went on to join his father and brothers in the family business, Raab Sales. He was a natural salesman; traveling, making connections and many memories.

Together with Laura Vera, Tom lived in Pleasanton, KS and raised their family of six children; Mark, Stephanie, Jon, Paul, Edward, and Mary Kathryn. A favorite pastime of his was taking the family on long camping trips to the lake. One memorable family trip to Canada included nights spent in tents with the roar of a nearby waterfall lulling everyone to sleep. Tom and Laura emphasized the importance of family by hosting large gatherings with their Halloween parties being a constant standout. Tom and Laura opened their home to all of

their children's friends and left a lasting legacy of kindness and good times remembered fondly by many.

Later in life, Tom reunited with his high school sweetheart, Becky Gredell, and moved back to Kansas City, MO. Tom enjoyed grilling for his family in the summer time and whipping up his famous French toast for Mary Kathryn and her friends. Tom and Becky shared a grand adventure together, driving cross-country in a camper and took in the beautiful scenery of the National Parks. Tom was lovingly cared for by Becky through his illness until his passing.

Tom was an enthusiastic friend, an energetic and charismatic individual. He loved going to concerts and cheering on the Chiefs, Royals, and Jayhawks. He was delighted by his grandchildren and cherished his time with them. Tom's memory will live on in all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Kathryn Raab, his brother Louis Michael Raab, sister Joan Raab, ex-wife Laura Vera, and nephew Daniel Raab.

He is survived by his children; Mark Vera(Eline), Stephanie Priddell(Kenneth), Jon Vera(Kaylyn), Paul Vera(Jacqueline), Edward Raab(Sasha), and Mary Kathryn Raab (Jacob). By his caring partner Becky Gredell. By his brothers Mark Raab(Patricia) and Steve Raab(Natalie). By his grandchildren Caleb, Alexavier, Ryder, Gabriella, Sophia, Izabella, Edith, and Siobhan. By his many loving nieces, nephews, extended family, and by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes any donations to the KU Cancer Center: kucancercenter.org/give

Additional thanks to Sheena of the St. Luke's Hospice team, for your kindness and care.

Tribute Wall

CR

“ *I remember that he and Becky raised rabbits in their back yard. One winter it was too cold and Tom said the bunnies all froze. They would sell them to pet stores.*

Cecilia Raab - January 23, 2025 at 09:21 AM

JS

“ My condolences to the entire Raab family. There are so many joyful and fond memories of Tom, especially during Guardian Angels School attendance together. My family eventually had to move after my 6th Grade completion due to a 1974 house fire and I lost touch with him and many other classmates. A “pro” side of current day social media was its facilitation to reconnect me again with a lot of them decades later, even now from afar, so as to enjoy old memories while remaking new ones.



One time in 2015, Tom contacted me to say that he and Becky (and the pet dog) had loaded up in a camper vehicle and had been traveling around the country and his next stop was Southern California where I now reside. We set up a time to meet at a local restaurant next to a shopping mall. He was quick to point out the nearby last of “my” remaining named department stores and said we HAVE to take a picture together with it in the background.. ..and then “chided” me for being too cheap for allowing one of the letter’s neon lights to be out (off) up top on the store building’s glowing name signage. (LOL) I must say that the adult Tom was still the same ole “happy-go-lucky” young Tom that I knew as a kid classmate, though with many more of life’s responsibilities in tow and the gained wisdom that comes from it all. Tom shared his excitement of their travel adventures so far and especially of that very day’s earlier visit with his cousin, Father John Raab CMF, who was assigned nearby to Casa Claret at Dominguez Seminary in Rancho Dominguez, CA. What a joy he shared to have seen his family’s 1st cousin.

Sadly, some 9 years later to present time, Father John had recently passed away last month (Dec 2024) for which I’m sure this loss weighed heavily on Tom as he, himself, was preparing for this transition. Thereafter, from afar, it just seemed to me like a renewed sense of acceptance by Tom of what was next to come for himself and that it was all okay. He had already made his peace with Christ, and he also knew he now had a large Raab family awaiting to rejoin and greet him in Heaven.

And so in Tom's remaining time living amongst us, he seemed to methodically reach out to family loved ones and close friends to give a final encore of his usual shared love and appreciation, more so to comfort them/us than himself. There was never any "Raab Sales" to buy into from Tom, as he always simply just gave freely and unconditionally of himself, no "price to pay" to receive what he was offering. The balancing act of life with a created new family and losing "old family" is hard enough for anyone, but Tom figured out how to navigate it all through the many years without ever losing his sense of humor and his grand smile. Respect!!! Rest well Sir Tom.. ..and live your eternal life. See ya on the other side! 💖🕊️✌️

Jose Sears - January 17, 2025 at 10:57 PM

MR

I just wanted to say that I SO enjoyed reading this. Its so fun to see that my dad's personality has never changed lol, so unapologetically himself. He spoke of you and others from the old "GA gang" often. Beautifully written! Thank you for sharing ❤️ -Mary Raab

Mary Raab - January 28, 2025 at 11:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Reflections Memorial Services LLC - January 16, 2025 at 06:33 AM

SR

“ *Steve & Natalie Raab, Mike & Jami Pelzl, Stephen Roper, & Greg & Alie Raab purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Thomas Edward Raab.*



Steve & Natalie Raab, Mike & Jami Pelzl, Stephen Roper, & Greg & Alie Raab - January 15, 2025 at 04:26 PM