



Dr. George Thomas Farley

May 6, 1926 - November 16, 2019

George Thomas Farley, Jr., 93, entered into eternal life on November 16, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Pittsfield on May 6, 1926 at St. Luke's Hospital to George T. Farley and Ellen Gore, "Tom" attended St. Joseph schools from first grade until his graduation in 1943. He immediately joined the US Navy and trained as a pilot. Returning after the end of WWII, Tom attended The College of the Holy Cross and graduated in 1949.

He married Margaret Therese Nesbit in 1951 with whom he raised 10 children until a long illness took her from them. A single dad to a large clan, he led by example with a quiet, steadfast determination expecting each to do their best and to "work until the work is done."

He started his long career as an educator for the Pittsfield Public Schools as a substitute and then as a classroom teacher at Central Junior High School. He was one of the first teachers at the newly built North Junior High and then went to Pomeroy Elementary School. In 1959, he was appointed principal at Briggs School where among many accomplishments, he was recognized by the Massachusetts Teachers Association for establishing the first library in an elementary school. In 1966 he took a two year sabbatical when he and Marge moved their 9 children to Greenfield, MA so that he could complete his Doctoral Studies in Educational Administration and Research at the University of Massachusetts. Returning to Pittsfield in 1968, with now ten children, Dr. Farley was appointed principal at Hibbard Elementary School and later at Highland Elementary School where he was a beloved leader to generations of

children and their families. He was always looking for ways to develop a sense of family and the love of learning. He embraced innovation, exemplified by his being the first principal in Pittsfield to introduce computers into elementary classrooms.

Like most educators during this era, he worked second and summer jobs to provide for his family, including working for the highway department, the Parks Department and Camp Karu, refereeing youth sports and preparing the next generation of teachers at the then North Adams State College. He spent hours outdoors growing flowers and a vast garden filled with an array of vegetables to be eaten freshly picked as well as to be stored for the winter months.

Tom was a star athlete with a special talent for batting and stealing bases. He took joy in doing backflips off the diving board even into his seventies and golfing into his late eighties. His keen sense of strategy, however, shone brightest at the contract bridge table. Together with Chuck Bordeau, his partner of 63 years, they achieved the rank of Silver Life Master.

Tom married Carolyn M. Sitzman in August of 1984. The couple formed a loving 35 year partnership lasting into a long retirement, caring for each other and enjoying the life events of their children, 31 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children and grandchildren, Tommy and Gerri (Ryan, Bridie, Chaela, Colin and Shea) Mary Kay and Steve (Katie and Jessica) Colleen and Jeff (Nicholas and Courtney) Shaun and Mary (Branden, Jennie and Amelia) Kevin (Matthew, Patrick, Tim and Elizabeth) David and Maria (Dylan, Kyle, Jack and Jared) Dan and Anita (Colleen and Brenna) Tricia and Dan (Enrique, Maggie and Joe) Peter and Deborah (PJ, Eliza, Bridget and Gretchen) and Meg (London and Breena). He is also survived by his numerous nieces and nephews, grand-spouses, his great grandchildren Alexis, Gia, Eli, and Claudia, and is currently blessed with more to come.

Tom was the quintessential scholar and gentleman. He found every opportunity to learn something new and put others before himself. His legacy

will live on in all who knew and loved him.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Dr. George Thomas Farley will be Saturday, November 23, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, celebrated by the Reverend Steven Montesanti. The family will receive friends on Friday, November 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Dwyer Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Tom's memory can be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Heart Association or the Thanksgiving Angels, in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street, Pittsfield MA 01201. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church
191 Elm St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall

GK

“ *Mr. Farley was my first coach in any sport when I was a young boy at Pomeroy Elementary School in Pittsfield. His early mentorship set the course for my athletic endeavors. A decade after working with Mr. Farley at Pomeroy, I was an All-American and alternate on the 1972 Olympic Team. Like Mr. Farley, I served as a military pilot.*

Gene Kraay - August 09, 2020 at 01:24 PM

JR

“ *To Trisha, David, Meg and the rest of the FARLEY families, very sorry for the loss of your Dad. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*



john & Anne Ruggeri - December 08, 2019 at 10:18 AM

MP

“ *To the Farley Family,*

Please accept our condolences on your loss.

Dr. Farley was a kind, compassionate man who would always greet you with a smile.

He will be missed and fondly remembered.

Martin & Shiffra Perlmutter

Martin & Shiffra Perlmutter - November 22, 2019 at 01:04 PM

TN

“ Dear Shaun Farley and family,

Our deepest sympathies and condolences to you and your family on the loss of such a remarkable man. There are truly no words that can be said of such a loss and just hope our donation in his memory can express our thoughts and sympathies.

Tom and Kim Nanof

Tom and Kim Nanof - November 22, 2019 at 09:48 AM

FS

“ Fima SC purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.



Fima SC - November 22, 2019 at 09:40 AM

MC

“ Dear Farley Family,

I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your father. I will always remember the kindness your father, Mary Kay, Danny and Peter showed when our father passed in 2018. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Mary Pat, John, Chris, Catherine, Caroline and Stephen

Mary Pat Couig - November 21, 2019 at 10:13 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



November 21, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ *Dear Tricia, Mary Kay, Katie and family, I am so very sorry to learn about your Dad's passing. Dad's and Grampas are very dear to us during our lifetimes and it's hard to say goodbye to someone who has been in our lives for so many years, I know. Sending prayers for peace and comfort in the days ahead. God bless. Hugs. Becky*

Becky Knox - November 21, 2019 at 12:04 PM



“ *Becky Knox lit a candle in memory of Dr. George Thomas Farley*



Becky Knox - November 21, 2019 at 12:00 PM

JB

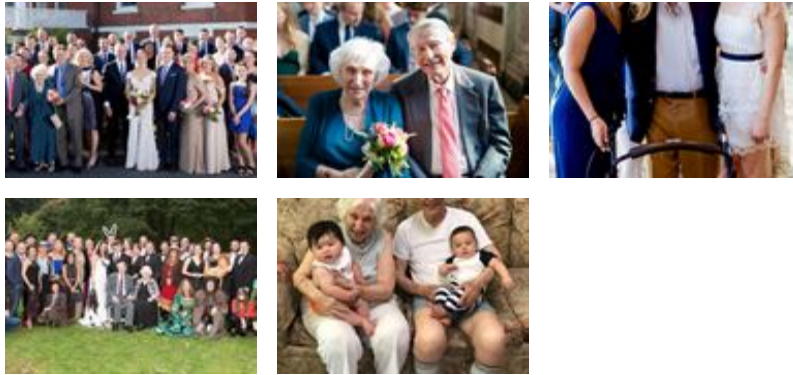
“ Some years ago when I watched my lovely new daughter-in-law ,Tricia, dancing at her wedding with her Dad to "The Wind Beneath My Wings," it was apparent that Tom Farley was a really special man. It has been my honor to know him...he will be missed.

My sincere condolences to Carolyn and to all the Farleys. You are all a special family and you are all in my prayers.

Jane Bouvier - November 21, 2019 at 08:36 AM



“ 48 files added to the album Life Tributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - November 21, 2019 at 08:08 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.



November 21, 2019 at 07:58 AM

WF

“ *My sympathy to the Farley family. Your father was an excellent standard for all of us. May he Rest In Peace and May you be comforted by beautiful memories.*

William Frazier - November 21, 2019 at 06:52 AM

DA

“ *I want to express my sadness to hear that Dr. Farley has passed on. I worked as secretary for him at Briggs School and took his great bridge lessons after I retired and enjoyed playing against him in Wmstown. He also taught Peter & Paul, my sons, at Pomeroy School and they remember him as a great teacher.*

He always greeted me with a smile - a gentle man and a gentleman.

My sympathy to his family,

Dorcas Abell

Dorcas Abell - November 20, 2019 at 12:01 PM

WI

“ *WAGNER , LU AND ISRAEL purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



WAGNER , LU AND ISRAEL - November 20, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ Tricia,

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. It sounds like he was a wonderful man and that the world is a better place because of him. Know that I will keep him and your family in my prayers.

God bless you, dear lady.

Deborah Leonczyk - November 20, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



November 20, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ *Reflections of Glory Wreath was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



November 19, 2019 at 05:14 PM



“ *As you grieve know that we are thinking of you. purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



As you grieve know that we are thinking of you. - November 19, 2019 at 02:32 PM

TF

“ *The Orlando Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



The Orlando Family - November 19, 2019 at 02:16 PM

JO

“ *To the Farley family,
Please accept the condolences of the O'Leary family on the passing of your father. We are so sorry for the loss. What a wonderful legacy he leaves in his family and all the students whose lives he made an impact. May happy memories reduce the sorrow that you are now experiencing. RIP Dr. Farley.*

John O'Leary - November 19, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



November 19, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ Around 1961 I entered second grade at the best elementary school in Pittsfield, Briggs. I got in trouble for what was called talking back to the teacher. I only did it when I had to set the teacher straight. no doubt annoying and disrespectful coming from a third grader. haha I spent many recesses in Mr. Farley’s office. I don’t remember a lot, but I remember how handsome he was and how NICE he was. He always smiled or chuckled when I told him why I got sent to the office. He never made me feel like I was. “Bad girl”. I actually liked spending recess in his office while he did paper work as I was looking down, out the window, on all the jump-ropers, kick ballers and tag players, because he was so kind to me. RIP Mr. Farley❤️

Donna Hitchcock - November 19, 2019 at 11:08 AM

TR

“ The Caputo, Loveys and Roma Families from Randolph purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.



The Caputo, Loveys and Roma Families from Randolph -
November 19, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ Anything for You was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.



November 19, 2019 at 09:13 AM

BN

“ *Mary Kay - he was always my favorite teacher at North Junior High! What a lovely gentleman he was. So very sorry to learn of your loss. A life well lived.*

Bonnie Nicholas

Bonnie Nicholas - November 19, 2019 at 08:09 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



November 19, 2019 at 07:22 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



November 19, 2019 at 06:47 AM

SH

“ *I sat with both Dr Farley and Ms Sitzman at the funeral of Buddy Pellerin a couple of years ago and reminisced about family and our Hibbard School days long ago. I'm so sorry for his death but Dr Farley will live in the hearts and minds of so many children that he educated, like me. God bless Dr Farley. To my classmate Dan and his siblings your Dad was so special and blessings to you all at this sad time.*

Stephen Harris - November 19, 2019 at 05:47 AM

J)

“ I was a Wendell Ave waif

Welcomed Loved Wanted

*In that crazy mixed up loving dinner table of 13, there was always
always always
an extra plate for #14 (15 and 16 too probably)*

*Sometimes, albeit rarely, I even got the question right and got an
extra cookie for dessert.*

*Steady as she goes, rock solid of a man, mindful and present to
others he had a marvelous and memorable laugh*

I felt as at home there on Wendell as I did in my own house.

Perhaps even more so.

*Even when being tortured mercilessly by Danny, I had both Nana
and her son looking out for me. :)*

*I talked to Uncle Tommy last Tuesday and he told me that on
Wendell Ave I once had a terrible terrible toothache and he felt so
badly that he couldn't comfort or help me. He reminded me also of
how he filmed my 1st steps. Here; a man with a loving wife and 10
children, their spouses, and their children, and their children's
children and he remembered my pain, and my beginnings. My
special time @ his home.*

*I loved him very much and will miss him dearly. I love his children
too, each and every one who are all blessed by his remarkable gifts.*

Jayne Bannish (Maine) - November 18, 2019 at 10:01 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. George Thomas Farley.*



November 18, 2019 at 03:48 PM



“ *Dad forget about Tom Brady..... You are the Greatest of All Time!!!! Love you!!!!*

Dan Farley - November 18, 2019 at 03:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Family Pictures*



Dan Farley - November 18, 2019 at 03:16 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Maggie Bouvier - November 18, 2019 at 02:57 PM

TR

“ 1 file added to the album *George Thomas Farley*



Tricia - November 18, 2019 at 02:52 PM