



Thomas A. Howard

December 21, 2004

Thomas Angel Howard, a first generation American whose parents hailed from County Mayo in Ireland and who came to this country and settled in the City of Detroit raising seven children, died Tuesday, December 21st, 2004 at the age of seventy five. Mr. Howard was born in Detroit August 1, 1929, and baptized at St. Gregory's Catholic Church. He graduated from St. Gregory's High School in 1948 and went on to attend the University of Detroit and the Detroit College of Law, graduating in 1958. Mr. Howard also became a member of the Supreme Court of the United States Bar Association. Mr. Howard specialized in criminal defense trial work, earning a reputation as an extremely skillful cross-examiner. In addition to representing clients in many high-profile trials, he represented numerous indigent clients on a pro bono basis, never seeking attention or recognition for his generous contributions of time and money during his 45 year career in the practice of law. Michael, Mr. Howard's oldest son, describes his father as a brilliant, creative thinker, with an analytical mind and gregarious personality who devoted his life to the service of others. In addition to spending time with his three sons, he loved to gather his entire extended family including twenty-two nieces and nephews to participate in weekly outings at the local roller rink. These outings were always followed by supper for everyone at a nearby restaurant where he would hold court over the entire family. One Christmas he bought all of his nieces and nephews a new pair of skates. Every Christmas he would buy scores of gifts for all his friends and family. Christmas was his favorite time of year. Mr.

Howard is preceded in death by his loving parents, Michael J. Howard and Ann (Derrig); his former wife Margaret J.; his son John R.; and his brothers Patrick Joseph, Austin Anthony, and Michael Joseph. He is survived by his oldest son Michael; his wife Marsha; his son Astin F.; granddaughter Jennifer (Thomas) Howard Kennedy; grandson Daniel Joseph; great grandson Thomas R. Kennedy IV; sisters Mary Howard Stolberg, Ann O'Hare, and Julia B. Howard; along with many nieces, nephews and loving friends. A lifelong friend of Bill W. Visitation Sunday December 26 and Monday December 27 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (Between Sheldon and Beck.)

In state Tuesday 10 AM until 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. James Catholic Church 46325 West Ten Mile Road Novi (between Taft and Beck.) Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 107 April Dr, Suite 1, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. To leave a message of condolence for the family, click on the Online Condolences link on this page.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas A. Howard*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Dear Marsha and Michael: I am so sorry for your loss, but grateful for you and Tom that it was peaceful. I am also grateful I had the opportunity to see and speak with both of you, and to visit Tom and say good-bye to him. He certainly was a major influence and force in my life in my early days as an attorney and I will never forget him. Charlie recalls his kindness even though he was very little when we knew Tom.*

My mother passed away on Thursday, December 23rd, one day after her 81st birthday. I will remember your words of comfort and kindness at such an extremely difficult time. I pray that G-d brings peace and comfort to both our families. Love, Laurel

Laurel Fink - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM



“ *YOUR SPIRIT AND CHARACTER SHOW ME THE WAY I WILL BE FOREVER GREATFUL. LOVE JOHN*

JOHN & NICK ZAIKA - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM



“ *WE MISS YOU ALREDY TOM TIL WE MEET AGAIN DAVE&SIL*

dave sylvia duxbury - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

DT

“ sorry for your loss. i went to school with him at st gregorys. i hadn't seen him for years, then i ran into him again about 12 years ago. we hadn't seen each other since the 6th grade, but he remembered me after almost 50 years.

donald thompson - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

JD

“ To Michael J Howard & Family, Deepest sympathy to you and your family at this very sad time. Thinking of you, Jayne Derrig-Knapp & the Derrig Family.

Jayne Derrig-Knapp - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

JB

“ I was sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I had the pleasure of seeing him at my retirement party in Brighton on November 11, 2004, and he appeared in my courtroom after that time, and I presented him with a photograph taken at the party.
I first came to know Tom when he was on the other side of a law suit many years ago. He was a tough but fair lawyer and we became friends as a result of that litigation. During that trial I took him for a ride in my airplane. When we were at about 5000 feet I let him take the controls. All was fine until I told him that he either settled the case or it was up to him to land the airplane. I will never forget the expression on his face. I have fond memories of Tom and will miss his wonderful sense of humor.

Judge Daniel A. Burress - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

RM

“ *A long time friend and colleague - while I was then the Detroit Fire Dept. Arson Captain working at Wa Co Organized Crime Task Force. Tom was always friendly (& even though we worked on opposite sides of the table) we often lunched and visited socially. I shall miss him. My deepest sympathy to his family.*

Robert C. McClary - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

MA

“ *Dearest Marsha, Michael and Austin-*

*We were very sorry to hear of your loss. Our hearts and prayers are with you, as we remember Uncle Tom fondly. Deepest sympathy,
Maura, Kathryn and Ann*

Maura, Kathryn and Ann - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM