



Thomas Allen Jones

August 14, 1944 - July 14, 2015

Jones, Thomas age 70 of Canton MI, formerly of Cleveland, died July 14, 2015. Beloved husband of Tina. Dear father of Valerie, Jeff, Jodi, Tim, Harry, and Melanie. Proud papa of Brittany, Shelby, Zachary, Jeremy, Jill, Abbey, Jackson, and Sullivan.

Visitation Friday 11 AM – 7 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth MI 48170. Funeral Service Friday 6 PM. Post 32 Honors Service Friday 6:30 PM.

Memorials to the Family Fund at www.youcaring.com/tina-jones-392816

To leave a message of condolence, please use the Share a Memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 17. 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Service

JUL 17. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
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American Legion Post 32 Honors Service

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Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Allen Jones*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Tom Jones was one of kind, I have never met anyone like him. He was compassionate wise, and a true gentleman. When he told a story, you hung on every single word. I learned so much from him in the little time that I knew him. I was blessed to have know him, and honored to be in his presence, that's how much he meant to me. He was a glorious man, and will be missed by his family and friends. This great man has left us, but not his spirit, that's something we get to keep in us, and our memories of him.*

Kim B. - September 16, 2015 at 09:41 PM

CS

“ I am a Minister of Jehovah's Witnesses my wife and I would like to give you and your family our deepest sympathy for the lost of your loved one. We would like to leave you with these words of encouragement from Gods word the Bible. At Job 14:14 it ask the question, "If a man dies, shall he live again?," The bible makes the promise: Your dead love ones will live...They will rise up. The bible also says, The righteous themselves will possess the earth and they will reside forever upon it. Isaiah 26:19;Psalms 37:29. May you find comfort in these scriptures and in the loving memories of your loved one. If you have any questions or concerns about the lost of your loved one feel free to email us at ctksdk@yahoo.com
Sincerely, Carlos & Sandy

Carlos & Sandy - July 29, 2015 at 08:15 PM

NS

“ Tina: I hope you are holding up well, as Tom would prefer you to do. Deb and I were very sorry to hear we lost Tommy but i know how much he has suffered recently and we can take relief in know that he no longer feels that pain.

Tom was a true optimist, a man who never had a bad word about anyone. He was a credit to all folks who consider themselves liberals in the true meaning of that word. I will miss his hearty laughter and his great story telling about the people and times he experienced in Cleveland.

We wish you the very best and stay well.

Norm and Deb

Norman Sinclair - July 21, 2015 at 02:37 PM

RW

“ Dear Tina & Family -

The world is a much poorer and less friendly place with Tom Jones gone. He made a point of keeping up with me long after I had left Detroit, and always left me smiling. And what a salesman! He could sell ice water to Eskimos, though given Tom's sweet nature, I bet he would choose not to.

As Ed Wendover noted below, Tom was the guiding spirit and steady hand behind Detroit publishing's mini-flourish a few years ago.

I shall miss him. My deepest sympathies.

Richard Willing-

McLean, VA

Richard Willing - July 20, 2015 at 08:17 AM

HS

“ We share good memories of Tom was a good friend of ours. Our sympathy goes out to the family. Herb & Laurie Schroeder Canton, Mi



Herb & Laurie Schroeder - July 18, 2015 at 06:25 PM

EW

“ What a great tribute to Tom.
The service (the photo boards) captured his importance of family wonderfully.
(The fifth of Jack too.)
It was good to see all of Tom's old friends again, albeit briefly.
Tom was holding court at the Money Tree once again! It was fitting to pause and remember those "glory days" of publishing -- TWO city magazines and two real newspapers... now down to 1/8 magazine (all fluff) and 2/3 of a newspaper.

Thanks for the memories Tom. (Fishing too!)

-- wendover

ed wendover - July 18, 2015 at 01:35 PM

YC

“ Your old friends at RSVP Corporate purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Thomas Allen Jones.



Your old friends at RSVP Corporate - July 17, 2015 at 09:26 AM

HL

“ Tom was a dreamer and his ability to see the dreams of others and sell them on his own is what made him an exceptional salesman and leader. I was fortunate to be part of one of those dreams when a group of us left Monthly Detroit to start Metropolitan Detroit. Every day, with endless supplies of verve and moxie, Tom marched his sales squad into the trenches and kicked the butt of the competition. I went out with Tom on several calls as a representative of the editorial staff and I can attest that he was truly the greatest salesman I ever saw, with an uncanny ability to speak to advertisers of every station -- from the smallest stall keeper in the mall to a corporate CEO. A lot of his self-confidence came from the knowledge that he was a truly self-made man. He would proudly relate that he first learned to write a letter from the receptionist at Cleveland Magazine. But he went on to become a voracious reader who always surprised with his vocabulary and depth of knowledge, which made him the perfect representative for a city magazine that engaged in hard journalism. But business acumen aside, Tom was most of all a fun-loving guy and the life of the party. Our times together remain some of my happiest memories in Detroit. Dear Tina, kids and grandkids -- I am so sorry for your loss.

Hillel Levin - July 17, 2015 at 07:01 AM

“Tom Jones, the optimist. Finding people to sell advertising is a tireless job, so Tom was constantly interviewing people to sell for *Monthly Detroit* or *Metropolitan Detroit*. More often than not Tom, after the potential salesperson would leave Tom’s office, Tom would come out to where the rest of the salespeople sat and proclaim, “That was the best candidate to ever sit across my desk.” Virtually every time.

Tom Jones, the teacher. Within my first few weeks at Monthly Detroit, way back in the summer of 1981, Tom took me out on some sales calls for the restaurant guide. One of the stops was to pitch Joe Muer at the famous restaurant bearing his name. Joe asked Tom and me if we wanted a cup of coffee. Tom said yes, but I didn’t drink coffee at the time so I said no. Joe asked again, and I again said no, so Joe left to get the coffee.

Tom looked at me and said, “Let me teach you something. When a restaurateur asks you if you want coffee just say yes. You don’t have to drink it, but by saying yes you’re being polite and acknowledging their hospitality. And if Joe Muer ever again asks you if you want coffee, you sure as hell better say yes.” A few years ago I became reacquainted with Joe and told him that story. Now every time he sees me he asks me if I want coffee. I always say yes.

Tom Jones, the salesperson. In September of 1980 Tom promised me a sales job at Monthly Detroit which would begin in the summer of 1981. Selling advertising is what I wanted to do at the time (I know better now), so naturally I didn’t interview during the fall of my senior year—I had my job. During winter break Tom got a hold of me and told me I needed to come downtown and meet the publisher, a little formality. Sure thing, I said. So the following week I had lunch with Paul Lison, the publisher, at the Caucus Club. A couple of days after the lunch Tom called to tell me I got the job.

“What do you mean I got the job? You told me I had the job back in September,” I said. “Yeah, I know,” Tom said, “but I still needed to

sell you to Paul. But you're good, when can you start." A few years later I ran into Lison and asked him about the lunch. He laughed and told me he needed to start meeting all of the potential sales people because Tom always said, "That was the best candidate to ever sit across my desk."

Thanks for giving me a shot Tom. You'll be missed by everyone.

Craig Brass

Craig Brass - July 16, 2015 at 04:56 PM

GD

“*Gary and Peggy Diedrichs purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Thomas Allen Jones.*”



Gary and Peggy Diedrichs - July 16, 2015 at 12:03 PM

GD

“It's hard to know where to begin with Tom. He was that kind of guy, and there is so much to tell. I can say our friendship began in 1974, at Cleveland Magazine, where his legend as the World's Greatest Salesman began when he b.s.-ed his way onto the advertising staff by challenging the boss to hire him if he sold his first ads on that very day (he already had them in his back pocket). He was the guy who had the nerve to sell an ad to the town's snootiest men's club "to remind your members who you are." He was the guy, when he walked into our hangout bar, we greeted with "Ladies and gentlemen, the one, the only ... Tom Jones!" And he would sing a bit of "It's not unusual ..." like he was in Vegas. He was the guy who regaled us nightly about his growing-up days in Texas, how he once owned a rough-and-tumble saloon on Cleveland's West Side where he knew mobsters, hookers and crooked cops, being a buff paratrooper and MP in Hawaii during the Vietnam War, and on and on and on. And at the same time, it didn't more than a few minutes to realize this was also one of the most well-read and intellectually curious men you'd ever meet, even if he'd gained all his insight and knowledge on his own, without benefit of professor or textbook. It also didn't take any time at all to know that he loved his wife ("my little tomato") and kids beyond measure and would move heaven and earth for them, as he also would for his friends. In recent years we didn't talk often, but we communicated almost every day -- as we reposted each other's finds on Facebook, usually something political, defending Obama, pillorying right-wingers, that sort of thing. It kept me in touch with his indomitable spirit, which I will miss very much. But knowing Tom, I can picture him both saddened to leave this world and his family but also excited to find out what's next in a way no living person can. Goodbye, old friend. See ya later.

Gary Diedrichs - July 16, 2015 at 11:32 AM

LH

“ One of the joys from living the past 36 years in Detroit was meeting, almost immediately, a man named Tom Jones. Whether it was during a few thousand nights at The Money Tree, or during too few months working alongside him at TPC, this remarkable guy was pure goodness, warmth, humor, and friendship. Thirty years ago this past May we shared another eternal experience: our first fly-in fishing trip to northern Canada. When he wasn't catching fish (including a gorgeous brook trout he landed), I can still see him sitting on the dock in a lawn chair, in the sun, reading *The Sicilian*. It was his first vacation in years and the memories of Tom that week are as indelible as any other from a life-changing trip to the wilderness. Tom's legacy during a life that did not always treat him kindly is what we all aspire to accomplish, and what he achieved: Each day and night he made the world around him a bit better and brighter. He had such a steady, ceaseless gift. And that gift he shared with anyone blessed to have known him. Am so sorry for Tina, Valerie, Jeff, Jodi, Tim, Harry, and Melanie, and grandkids. But am so grateful for his life, friendship, and lessons that were richly personal and happily permanent. Lynn Henning

Lynn Henning - July 16, 2015 at 10:28 AM

MO

“ To Tina and family:
So sorry to hear about Tom's passing. What a wonderful man. Always made people around him feel better with his humor and kindness.
Mike O'Hara

Mike O'Hara - July 16, 2015 at 08:56 AM

LM

“ Dear Jones Family, Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. Tom was the patriarch of your family and a very nice man. He was always kind to Greg and I. Very jovial and spirited he would always take the time to catch up and find out what was going on when we would see him. We will remember his smile, his laugh and the fun times shared with him and your family. God Bless. Leis, Greg, Ava and Nicklas Miller

Leis Miller - July 15, 2015 at 06:08 PM

JW

“ My condolences to Tom's family. As cousins we used to see each other at family reunions and at Uncle Bus's restaurant. So sorry I was unable to catch up with him as adults.

Jeff Wyant - July 15, 2015 at 05:50 PM

PE

“ So sorry for your loss. Tommy was one special man, Everyone that knew him loved him. always had kind and good words to say to everyone. Gonna miss you Cousin. RIP and hugs and love to the Family and lots of prayers.

Pam (Rymer) Evans - July 15, 2015 at 04:21 PM