



Thomas "Tom" J. Sullivan

September 17, 1939 - March 30, 2025

Thomas J. ("Tom") Sullivan, 85, of Lake Forest, Illinois peacefully passed away at home surrounded by his cherished wife of 61 years, Patricia, and love of his family on March 30, 2025.

Born in Evergreen Park, IL, Tom was the second of three children of Thomas Leo Sullivan and Catherine M. Walsh. He grew up on the South Side of Chicago attending St. Clotilde's Grammar School, Leo High School (Go Lions!) and the Illinois Institute of Technology. As the first to attend and graduate college in his family, he was a determined and inquisitive student. It was this drive paired with his devout Catholic faith that laid the foundation to pursue a career devoted to improving the lives of others through water and wastewater engineering.

In May of 1959, Tom's life forever changed, It was there, on a group date, that he changed partners on the dance floor and met the love of his life, Patricia ("Pat"). On July 20, 1963, Tom and Pat were married at St. Sabina's Catholic Church in Chicago. They then began their grand adventure first in Washington, D.C. As an "engineer's engineer," he began his career vocation serving in the United States Public Health Service. He traveled the country advising improvements to provide necessary water and wastewater infrastructure for communities to have access to clean water, wastewater sanitation and improved quality of life. As Tom and Pat built their life, they also

began to build a family. In November of 1964, they were blessed with their first son, Thomas Michael, and decided to return home to Chicago in 1965.

Upon their return, Tom began working for the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago before ultimately joining the renowned water engineering consulting firm Greeley and Hansen the next 45 years. Rising from Project Manager to Partner, he was proud to improve communities around the country and do it the right way. He valued the clients, teammates, and projects throughout his career.

Tom and Pat continued building a beautiful family with the births of Kathryn Anne (1966), Patricia Jean (1968) and James Patrick (1976). Faith and family were always first in Tom's life. He cherished his children, coaching their sports teams, promoting their education and celebrating their successes.

In 1993, he was named by his peers at Greeley and Hansen to be Managing Partner - the first chief executive of the firm. With his natural leadership, this was a responsibility he took seriously and helped the company thrive leading the engineering practice into a 21st century successful business, but doing so centered on the foundational values of trust, care, commitment and service to the communities, clients and fellow co-workers and teammates.

Together with his wife, Tom was devoted to his faith as a long-time parishioner at the Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest. He served for many years as an usher and extraordinary eucharistic minister. Throughout their long marriage, Tom and Pat's love remained strong, deep and rooted in faith. In retirement, they were inseparable - doing everything together from daily tasks to wonderful trips to Ireland and enjoying grandchildren who brought smiles to their faces. Tom and Pat were sweethearts to the last day.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Sheila Sullivan and

grandson Brenden. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; his children Thomas (Debby Sullivan), Kathryn (Royce Bedward); Patricia (Siobhan Sullivan); James (Francesca Sullivan); 10 beloved grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, and his sister Janice Ruffolo.

A visitation will be held at 10:30 am until the time of Mass beginning at 11:30 am on Monday, April 7, 2025, at the Church of St. Mary, 175 E. Illinois Road in Lake Forest. The service will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/osq5WIRjabc?feature=share>. Interment will be at St. Mary Cemetery, Lake Forest, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Tom's name to Leo High School Alumni Association. Donations can be made online at <https://leoalumni.org/donations> or sent to Leo High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 603, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60454. Your generosity will help continue Tom's legacy in supporting Catholic education and contribute to much needed financial aid to many deserving Leo students to enable opportunities for students to receive high quality education and achieve success in their lives as Tom did.

Arrangements entrusted to Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, (847) 234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

Spruce Road & Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of St. Mary
175 E. Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tribute Wall



“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Mass Livestream in memory of Thomas "Tom" J. Sullivan*



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - April 03, 2025 at 11:06 AM

AR

“ *I am so saddened to hear about Tom's passing. My deepest condolences to the Sullivan family. I will always remember Tom's positive attitude, kindness, sense of humor, and outstanding leadership. It was an absolute pleasure working with him I learned so much from Tom. Andy Richardson*

Andrew Richardson - April 06, 2025 at 06:08 PM

BP

“ *Dear Pat,*

We offer our prayers for Tom, you, and your families. Tom was a good friend and classmate of Bern's at Leo High School. We remember the dinners we shared with you and Tom.

Our Blessings to you,

Bern & Marian Pepping

Bernard J Pepping - April 06, 2025 at 03:00 PM

FM

“ Tom was an exceptional leader, engineer, and person. When Jim informed me of Tom’s passing, I felt both deep sadness and gratitude for having known him. Tom was the Managing Partner when I was promoted to the partnership at Greeley and Hansen, during our time together, I greatly valued his qualities. Even after retirement, we stayed in touch, and my wife Florence and I had the privilege of hosting Tom, his wife Pat, his son Jim, and his wife Francesca at our home. Rest in peace, Tom.

Federico Maisch - April 05, 2025 at 09:55 AM

CW

“ Many times Tom helped me in my career at Greeley and Hansen. He always provided a strong moral compass. A good man has left us, the lessons remain.

Clyde Wilber - April 03, 2025 at 04:35 PM

DH

“ I was honored to have been an administrative assistant and executive assistant to Mr. Sullivan during his tenure as Partner and Managing Partner at Greeley and Hansen. I will be forever grateful for his mentorship. He consistently demonstrated excellent leadership. He was honest and authentic.



*With deepest sympathy for your loss,
Darlene Henderson*

Darlene Henderson - April 03, 2025 at 04:31 PM

DH

“ I want send my deepest condolences to you and your family I first met Tom when I was coaching softball at lfhs and Kathy was one of my best and fondist players. Since then I have seen him at church and at other events. We could always strike up a conversation. I will miss him. I will be out of town next week and will miss the funeral but give my best to Kathy.
Denny and Carol Herrmann

Dennis Herrmann - April 03, 2025 at 03:15 PM

KB

Thank you so much for your kind words, Mr. Herrmann. I too remember our softball time fondly and I appreciated your good coaching. My dad mentioned seeing you at church and how much he enjoyed talking to you. I appreciate you thinking of us at this difficult time. I hope you and your wife and Karen are all doing well.
Kathy

Kathy Bedward - April 04, 2025 at 09:06 PM