



Thomas Richardson Cox

December 20, 2022

Thomas Richardson Cox, 68, of Bloomfield, Connecticut passed away on December 20, 2022 surrounded by his family after a brief illness. Tom was born on October 13, 1954 to the late Harry E. H. Cox Jr. and Phebe Tucker Everson in New York, New York. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Kate Sullivan Cox, his beloved children Katie Cox Pelletier (Mitchell) of Bow, New Hampshire, Tom Cox Jr. of West Hartford, and Ben Cox (Gabrielle) of West Hartford. In addition he leaves his three grandchildren Aaron, Lila and Ian Pelletier, his brother, Edwin T. Cox (Jacquelyne Gardner) and sister, Phebe S. Condon (Robert). Tom was predeceased by his father Harry, his mother Phebe, and his brother, Harry T. Cox. He is survived also by many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins, and truly great friends.

Tom grew up in the Pine Orchard section of Branford and in Darien. After four years at Suffield Academy he went on to graduate with honors from both Georgetown University and the University of Connecticut School of Law. Tom made many important, lifelong friendships in college and law school that endure to this day. While attending UConn Law, Tom met Mary Kate, the love of his life and wife of forty years. Tom and Mary Kate married on February 20, 1982 and were blessed with three children over the next five years. Tom passed on his various passions to his family, teaching his three kids to ski and sail during many memorable adventures (and more than a few misadventures). He was also a lifelong golfer and shot the best round of his

life at Carnoustie in Scotland.

Tom epitomized a man who truly lived for his family, determined to be the best husband and father that he could be. Nothing in life gave him greater joy. He was enormously proud of his children. Tom was a beloved grandfather, known to his grandkids as “Grampy” and took an active role in their lives, frequently driving up to New Hampshire for lively visits. He will always be remembered for his big heart, keen mind and unfailing dedication to his family.

Tom had a long and fulfilling career as an attorney. He worked for the United Technologies Corporation after graduating from law school. He then dedicated his career to public service, working for both the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut. Tom took great pride in his work and was known for his sound judgment, uncompromising integrity and diligent work ethic, which he passed on to his three children. He truly had a calling to serve the people of Connecticut and took his ethical responsibilities as an attorney very seriously. He was the very definition of “zealous advocate.”

Tom and Mary Kate lived in the same home in West Hartford for almost 35 years. He tended it inside and out with what some might call an obsession, but he found the work therapeutic. The spacious addition that he designed accommodated all of his kids’ friends and nothing gave him greater pleasure than a house full of teenagers or young adults. He was a surrogate father to many.

By 2016, Tom and Mary Kate were both retired and left West Hartford for Old Saybrook. There Tom made new friends through the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, the Old Lyme Country Club and in his role as Chair of the Old Saybrook Planning Commission. He and Mary Kate enjoyed 5 years there and most importantly, they enjoyed each other’s company and found a deeper love and partnership.

In 2021 they returned to the Hartford area, happily settling in the Gillette Ridge community in Bloomfield to be closer to family. He faced his terminal diagnosis last Spring with strength and hope, sharing the details of it with only a few. He thought he had a few years but in fact he had only a few months remaining. He bought a 32' sailboat in August, renaming it Evening Star, and spent the next 2 months rigging it for "geezer sailing." He and Mary Kate spent 21 nights aboard, only abandoning the effort in mid October when the temperature below dropped to the mid 40's.

Husband, father, sailor, public servant, honest citizen, good man — he excelled at all of these roles and would find this recitation acutely embarrassing. He was born completely incapable of self promotion. He will be missed.

Calling hours will take place on Thursday, December 29, 2022 from 4-7 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home in West Hartford, followed by a funeral service at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford on Friday, December 30, 2022 at 11am. A private burial service will take place at Dellwood cemetery in Manchester, VT in 2023. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC **29**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Funeral Service

DEC **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Asylum Hill Congregational
814 Asylum Ave
Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

LS

“ Dear Mary Kate,

My heart-felt sympathy to you and your family. I've only known you for a few months; how I wish I had had the opportunity to know Tom also.. You are in my prayers during this very difficult time. God bless you and all who loved Tom. May he rest in peace.

LeNelle Suharto

LeNelle Suharto - January 02, 2023 at 03:55 PM

MN

“ *Our sincere condolences to Mary Kate and the entire Cox family! We were backyard neighbors for many years in West Hartford and have fond memories of Tom and his family and friends enjoying each others' company in their yard in all seasons. May his memory be a blessing!*

Michelle Kunzman & Steve Szafman n - December 29, 2022 at 07:04 PM

JK

“ *I was devastated to learn of Tom's passing. The Klein family-jamie, Adam,Ben and Michael are sending love, prayers and strength. So many wonderful memories we shared when the kids were growing up. May Tom's memory be a blessing. With love,
Jamie*

Jamie Klein-Zoref - December 29, 2022 at 11:41 AM

TM

“ *My sincere condolences to Mary Kate and his family, friends and loved ones. He will be dearly missed by all. Tom was a colleague at the City of Hartford. I also knew him from our interaction at Asylum Hill Congregational Church. Tom was a great person. I will always remember his helpful and professional demeanor.*

Tony Mein - December 28, 2022 at 12:36 PM

MS

“ *Mary Jane Sullivan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas Richardson Cox.*



Mary Jane Sullivan - December 28, 2022 at 12:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Richardson Cox.*



December 28, 2022 at 10:44 AM

NG

“ *Mary Kate and family,*

My sincerest condolences to all. I worked with Tom both at Corporation Counsel's Office for the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut at the Office of Policy and Management. (He would have switched this sentence around to say the Office of Policy and Management before the State of Connecticut).

He was a good man. He was unbelievably meticulous to work for and with! (I say that with a big smile) He was a very kind man with a very big heart! He was very devoted to his family. His whole demeanor would change when speaking with anyone from his family. You all have my deepest sympathy.

Nancy Gaudet - December 27, 2022 at 11:58 AM

TC

“ *I will always appreciate the courage and integrity Tom displayed as he resisted inappropriate political interference and did his job as a City attorney during a very tumultuous period. May his leadership be an example to other public servants long into the future.*

*Ted Carroll
former Hartford school board member*

Ted Carroll - December 27, 2022 at 10:06 AM

SS

“ *Tom was a fellow Board member serving the Greens at Gillette Ridge. His calm demeanor and legal advice made our community a better place in which to live. Our condolences go out to Mary Kate and his family. Stan and Edie Sorkin*

Stan Sorkin - December 26, 2022 at 07:32 AM

BP

“ Tom was my colleague at City of Hartford. Highly competent attorney and good counsel. We at my Public works department sought his advice on many issues and he provided good guidance. We met again at MDC. Gentle but firm in nature. May his soul rest in Peace. He will be missed.

Bhupen Patel - December 25, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas Richardson Cox.



December 24, 2022 at 07:22 PM