



Thomas Dakich

March 24, 1933 - April 8, 2014

Thomas Dakich, age 81 of Valparaiso, loving husband of Bobbie Dakich for 54 years, passed away on April 8, 2014. Born in Gary on March 24, 1933, Tom was the middle son of Mary (Drobac) and Peter Dakich.

Tom graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1951 and was a star of the Horsemen's sectional winning basketball team, earning Tom a basketball scholarship to Idaho State University which he attended for 2 years. His teammates included his brother Roy.

Tom transferred to Bowling Green State University, where he played for 2 more years. After earning his Bachelor degree in 1956, he served in the US Army for 2 years, "protecting the shores of Lake Michigan from enemy submarines".

He took a teaching and coaching position at Calumet High School in 1959, eventually becoming Assistant Principal and then Principal. He taught various Business classes for more than 40 years and was very popular with his students.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Roy. He was the adored father of Tom (Roberta) Dakich, Dan Dakich and Jackie Dakich Ehman. As a father, he was always there for his children. He was supportive and interested in everything his kids did and they sincerely appreciated him. Tom wholeheartedly loved his 7 grandchildren and they truly loved him. Tom and Bobbie would drive hours to attend every possible event of their grandchildren Ali, Pete and Tori Dakich, Andrew and Laura Dakich and Nick

and Emily Ehman. Each of his grandchildren has unbelievably fond memories of “Poppers” and their time spent with him.

Tom is also survived by his brother Nick Dakich; sisters in law, Barbara Dakich and Anne Dakich and many nieces and nephews.

Tom was an avid golfer who played the Polish as a member of Valparaiso Country Club. He was a member of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

Friends may visit with Tom’s family on Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 2-8 pm at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Pomen service at 5 pm. Funeral service Monday, April 14th at 10 am. St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 9191 Mississippi St. Merrillville, IN with Rev. Marko Matic officiating. Interment at Calumet Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, IN 46410

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 2:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church
9191 Mississippi St
Merrillville, IN 46410

Tribute Wall

JK

“ I went to Horace Mann HS and was 3 years behind him. He was my hero. I Also played basketball and modeled my two hand set set shot after Tommy. Went on to play basketball in South Bend, IN, and at Hanover College. I will always remember Tommy. With great fondness. Joe Kreitzman

Joe Kreitzman - January 10, 2017 at 09:12 PM

GG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



George Gisser - March 27, 2016 at 06:10 PM

GH

“ Dear Bobby, Dan, and Tom and Laura:

It has been almost two years that Tom was called by our Creator, and unfortunately I only found out, today. May his Soul Rest In Peace.

We never met, However I met Tom 1954-1955, at BGSU., and maybe also in Gary, while driving Phil Bertman home for holidays. Phil and I became like brothers, since we shared the same small room, and were fraternity brothers too! We also were in classes together, both of us pursuing BA in Business degrees.

All I heard from Phil's lips, was how great and wonderful Tom was. when I met him, I finally found out why.

Then, in 1964, Phil called me up from the Cleveland clinic, to say goodbye...

During my entire life, I never again felt the grief and loss of another soul. I often wondered how your Tom had been taking it too. I prayed that you and your family had it easier than my pain.

But today, I found joy, in my new found knowledge, I visualized Phil waiting with outstretched arms receiving Tom at the Heavenly Gates. Tom and Phil, back together again. I have tears in my eyes for them both. Tears of Joy.

I also pray for you and your family, (hopefully as a result of this belated letter) Roaring Rivers of Tears Of Joy, and happy and healthy long lives.

*Respectfully, with affection, 845-222-0765
Love, georgegisser4@gmail.com
George Gisser.*

(When two different people love the same person, these two

different people also love each other.) I made that up, and hope you agree.



George H. Gisser - March 27, 2016 at 03:50 PM

EP

“*Mrs. Dakich, Tom, Dan and Jackie...I was SO very sorry to read of Mr. Dakich's passing. Gosh. What a great man! Mrs. Dakich...first and foremost, your love for each other was evident, even upon a first meeting. Yes, you were best friends in the truest sense of those words. I am so very sorry for your great loss. Tom, Dan and Jackie...your Dad was a super person, personality plus, warm, affectionate, frankly, all the things a Dad can be, he was. I know you are grieving your loss and will for quite some time to come. Those of us here in Bloomington, Indiana who knew your Dad are also grieving. May you find comfort in knowing that you had one of the best, that he will never be forgotten, and, in many, many ways, you have been richly blessed with both a Mother and Dad who are exemplary. God speed, Mr. Dakich. In sympathy and friendship, Evelyn Powers, Bloomington, Indiana*

Evelyn Powers - April 15, 2014 at 09:08 AM

FV

“*Mrs. Dakich and Jackie, I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to express my sorrow to you today. It was a big crowd. To all the Dakich clan, just know that he remains with you always and you are who you are in large part because of his influence. Pray to him, he's there. I prayed for all of you today at Palm Sunday Mass. Be strong.*

Fred Vaiana - April 13, 2014 at 08:46 PM

MR

“ *Marty and Brynn Richter purchased the Sentimental Dreams for the family of Thomas Dakich.*



Marty and Brynn Richter - April 13, 2014 at 09:17 AM

JA

“ *So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. John and Cheryl Archer, Bowling Green, Ohio*

John Archer - April 12, 2014 at 09:36 PM

PF

“ *Peter Feldman purchased the Heavenly Sentiments Spray for the family of Thomas Dakich.*



Peter Feldman - April 12, 2014 at 05:26 PM

JS

“ *Dear Bobbi and family,*

So sorry to hear of Tommy's passing. What a guy and who could ever forget his smiles and great hugs of friendship. He was always a ray of sunshine walking in my office to get his pulse and blood pressure checked, always singing. Ted and I send our heartfelt sympathies, he will be missed.



Ted and Joyce Seabloom

Joy Seabloom - April 12, 2014 at 01:56 PM

MM

“ Thoughts and prayers from the Morgan family.

Meredith, Jim, JT and Jordan

Meredith Morgan - April 12, 2014 at 12:04 PM

CH

“ I remember meeting Me. Dakich for the first time at The Kappa House in 1987. My first thought... " Friend's (Jackie's) Dad is a BIG guy!" With in 2 minutes of that meeting I knew he had a BIG personality and an even BIGGER heart. Fun memories of him. You are all in my heart and in my prayers. Love, Carroll

Carroll Cleveland Hannon - April 12, 2014 at 11:28 AM

WT

“ Blessings to the Dakich family. I'm so sorry for your loss. May God's grace abound during this time.
Bill Tucker

William Tucker - April 11, 2014 at 09:40 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Thomas Dakich.



April 11, 2014 at 03:48 PM



“ Just wanted to pay tribute to the best father-in-law a girl could ever ask for! He and I had such a special relationship full of laughter, jabbing one another, and a deep mutual respect for each other. I loved him more than words can express. What an unbelievable role model to his kids and his grandchildren. Most of all, he showed all of us how a husband should treat his "bride". They were truly the best of friends and lived their lives to the fullest. Tom - I love you so much and will miss you beyond belief! Thank you for 25 wonderful years together!!

Your daughter-in-law, Roberta Dakich

Roberta Dakich - April 11, 2014 at 03:28 PM

MD

“ Mike O'Neil and all the girls at Today's Dentistry purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Thomas Dakich.



Mike O'Neil and all the girls at Today's Dentistry - April 11, 2014 at 01:47 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Dakich.



April 11, 2014 at 11:06 AM

LK

“ I had Mr. Dakich for Consumer Economics my senior year, 1980-81, he was a great teacher, had a wonderful sense of humor. He will be missed. My husband, Darrell, had him as a basketball coach back in 1966, he has great memories of him as well. RIP Mr. Dakich.

Laura Kirtley-Peddycoart - April 11, 2014 at 10:33 AM

JA

“ Such a great loss to Bobbie, her wonderful family and this world. Knowing Tom was good for us and we enjoyed sharing all the laughs whenever we were with them. However, it seems God needed some more laughs in Heaven. We will all miss him, we were honored to have him in our life.....Love Annette and Joe Allegretti

Joe and Annette Allegretti - April 10, 2014 at 08:31 PM

AK

“ He was a great teacher when I had him and loved to joke around with us in class. He was one of the great ones that we need more of in schools. Sending prayers and condolences to the family. From April Kiel a past student.



April Kiel - April 10, 2014 at 08:26 PM

KM

“ Prayers to you and your family Dan.....Continue to allow your dad to live through you...

Kelin Mark

Kelin Mark - April 10, 2014 at 07:24 PM

TF

“ Our condolences to the entire Dakich Family. He was a special guy, great personality and always had that wonderful smile. I really enjoyed the talks we had in BG and at all of Andrew & Tyler's games. He was very proud of you Dan. What a great set of parents God gave you. The world has lost one of the "Best". Our family is here if you need anything at all. Peace and prayers to all of you. The Dunn Family, Tim, Tyler, Brittany, Ashley, Mackenzie.

Tim Dunn Family - April 10, 2014 at 06:38 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Dakich.



April 10, 2014 at 05:21 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Dakich.



April 10, 2014 at 04:43 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Dakich.*



April 10, 2014 at 04:30 PM



“ *Truly Beloved Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Dakich.*



April 10, 2014 at 03:58 PM



“ *I will remember my Uncle Tom most from my last 2 visits with him - in Alabama last summer and Monterey, CA the previous May. On both occasions he shared with me that he was worried about my dad, particularly my dad's health, which really meant a lot to me. A great dad and husband to his family, and mentor to so many young people, my Uncle Tom will be missed greatly. We love you Aunt Bobbie, Tom, Dan, and Jackie.
Jerry and Denise*

Jerry Pearman - April 10, 2014 at 03:31 PM

DP

“ Uncle Tom was a great man and loved by many. I am thankful for the time I was able to spend with him last summer at my son's wedding. I will always have many fond memories of Uncle Tom and will especially remember his smile. Aunt Bobbie, Tom, Dan, Jackie; you're in our thoughts and prayers. Dennis and Carrie

Dennis Pearman - April 10, 2014 at 01:51 PM

JK

“ My Uncle Tom was an AMAZING man! He was so fun to be around. Loved his jokes and laugh. Going to miss him terribly! Won't be the same with out him. Love to my Aunt and my cousins!!! I will see you this weekend. Love ya Uncle Tom!!! Jayme and Family

Jayme Kuhns - April 10, 2014 at 12:24 PM

AT

“ Deepest condolences to the family and loved ones: Mr. Dakich was a great teacher, funny, kind, saw each students uniqueness, and an encourager. From his obit and comments here, it sounds like he was as amazing outside the classroom as inside.

Anna Toledo - April 10, 2014 at 12:19 PM

SB

“ Mr. Dakich was one of my most favorite teachers! I always looked forward to his class and even took accounting 2 just so I could have him as my teacher again! Who else would take their students on a field trip to the prison but Mr. Dakich. I even shared the same birthday with him. He will be missed greatly!

Suzanne Barnett - April 10, 2014 at 11:24 AM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Thomas Dakich.*



April 10, 2014 at 10:21 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the entire Dakich family. Tom and I worked together at Calumet H.S. for a good number of years. A true friend and colleague.*
Lou Lindinger, Florida

Lou Lindinger - April 10, 2014 at 08:11 AM



“ *This is his son Dan.. Thank you so much for your memories especially those of Calumet HS..*

dan dakich - April 10, 2014 at 07:57 AM



God bless you Dan. So sorry about the loss of your Dad.

Chuck Lofton - April 11, 2014 at 06:05 PM



“ *I am very sorry to hear this news. My prayers are with the entire Dakich family. Mr. D was a great guy. He always had a smile when he saw me, and I loved talking with him. He was everything I know a man from the region to be - hard working, incredibly honest, blunt, GREAT family man, loved his wife, children, and grandchildren, respectful of others. The list can go on and on. RIP Mr. D - you touched many lives.*

Rob Tretter - April 10, 2014 at 07:56 AM

AM

“ He was a great teacher. Believing in me and pushing me to reach my goal. So glad I followed his advice. I am grateful I was able to have him and his wife as teachers. My prayers are with his family.

Amy (Flores) Freitas class of '95

Amy - April 10, 2014 at 07:07 AM

DG

“ Great family, terrible loss. My prayers go out to you all.

Don Guernsey - April 10, 2014 at 07:02 AM

TW

“ Thoughts and Prayers goes out to the Dakich family. Mr. Dakich was a great teacher and supporter of all students at CHS. I enjoyed the stories he shared about Bobby Knight and his son Dan. He always encouraged me to go for my dream of playing college ball. I still think about Mr. Dakich when I think of my high school days. Mr. Dakich thanks for all the support to me and all past CHS students.

Troy Wilbon, CHS '92

Troy Wilbon - April 10, 2014 at 06:27 AM

 Gina
Brown

“ Mr. D was my accounting teacher and he was one of the most humorous teachers there. We don't say hunnert we say hundred. Loved him. Crunch those numbers in heaven Mr. D. You'll be missed

Gina Brown - April 10, 2014 at 03:11 AM



Aw. Gina! You just made me laugh so hard! I remember him doing that. Great guy! Thanks for giving me another memory.

Michelle Conner - April 10, 2014 at 03:56 PM



“ My favorite teacher to this day. The reason I studied accounting in college and went on to become a business teacher. Also think of him every year when the Chicago Auto Show starts.

Michelle Conner - April 10, 2014 at 02:33 AM

GB

“ Mr D was a great guy, always supportive to me. Very good to the people that work for me. He was a solid region, family guy who lived and led by example. I enjoyed every moment I was fortunate enough to spend with him. Godspeed sir and thank you.

Greg Bosak - April 09, 2014 at 10:08 PM

J'

“ I was very fortunate to get to know Tom in several different roles. He was my teacher at Lake Ridge Middle School, after he left as the principal of CHS. Later, in high school, he was a mentor that helped guide me to my college choice...Wabash...which happened to also be his eldest son Tom's choice as well. Later, when I returned to teach and coach at Calumet, Tom was one of the elder statesmen of the faculty and a longtime coach's lunch table companion. He loved sharing Bobby Knight stories and IU basketball stories from his younger son Dan's exploits as a Hoosier basketball player. He was also one helluva nice guy. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. I will always cherish his friendship and miss his story telling and laughter at the coach's lunch table.

Jim Wadkins, CHS '80 - April 09, 2014 at 10:04 PM

BP

“ My husband is not much of a writer, but just told my son that when the the Seniors on the football team would go for breakfast they would call him and he to join them and not only did he join them he would pay for their breakfast..

Bobby Porter - April 09, 2014 at 08:26 PM

BP

“ What a wonderful person Mr Dakich, a friend to all who knew him. He was our priciple, and guided many young kids, and both husband and myself are very sad to hear of his passing. He made all of feel as if we were important to him. We are so happy that a couple of years ago My husband got a chance to talk to him on the phone.. Mr Dakich will always be in our heart. May tho Lord be with his family friends and all the students who treasured the time he gave us.

Bobby and Judy Porter - April 09, 2014 at 08:16 PM

RM

“ I have very fond memories of Tom Dakich taking us, as neighborhood kids, to the Calumet HS gym to play basketball. I will also always remember what a genuine, open and caring man he was. He was a strong role model for many of us.

Randy Moore

Randall S Moore, MD, MBA - April 09, 2014 at 05:03 PM

AB

I am an accountant today because of Mr. D. He will be missed

Amy Brown - April 09, 2014 at 11:15 PM