



Thomas Richard Pitz

November 26, 1952 - September 20, 2022

Thomas Richard Pitz, a warm and witty sales executive who sold everything from office products to magazine ads to outdoor advertising, died on September 20. Known to his family and friends as “T-Bone or Tommy P” he was 69 and for the past 35 years, resided in Indianapolis.

An energetic athlete, he regularly took 20-mile bicycle rides, cooling off afterwards with a swim in his backyard pool. Last fall, he joined several friends on a three-day cycling trip during the Mountains to the Coast ride, a tour of North Carolina’s back roads. Tom loved to host the zip code bike gang in the back yard for a beer and a burger, always asking “how was everything?” wanting to ensure a wonderful experience at his pool lovingly named the Arden Country Club.

His wide-ranging love for music included the Beatles, John Prine, Robert Cray, Van Morrison, James Taylor, Frank Sinatra and John Hiatt. He enjoyed live music at many concert venues in Indianapolis and once snuck a car full of kids into a concert saying, “I’m with the band.” He knew the words to every 70s hit and sang them loudly and off key.

An Indianapolis native, he was born on Nov. 26, 1952, and was the son of the late Paul Pitz and Roseann Fogarty Pitz. The third eldest of six children, he grew up on the city’s west side. With his three brothers and two sisters, he spent his youth swimming at the Dolphin Club and every fall rooting for the Butler University Bulldogs during basketball games at Hinkle Fieldhouse. A lifelong sports fan, he attended Indianapolis Colts games. Besides following

college basketball and professional baseball, he also was a devotee of horse racing, visiting tracks such as Churchill Downs and Keeneland in Kentucky as well as Latonia in Cincinnati. With an unmatched memory, Tom could tell you the winner of every Kentucky Derby and he loved helping friends handicap the race.

After eight years of elementary education at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, he graduated in 1970 from Cathedral High School. In 1977, he earned a bachelor's degree in urban planning, affectionately called bourbon planning, from Ball State University. He took time away from his college career to travel throughout the United States, visiting friends and family. Following the fashion of the 1970s, he wore clogs, corduroys, a beard and long brown hair. As a businessman, he cut a far more dapper figure, wearing navy sports jackets and classic ties.

In November 1987, he married the love of his life Donna Lee Dwyer, then the sales manager for WENS Radio 97. At the time of his marriage, Tom worked in the sales and marketing department for the Rolodex Corp. In 1990, he welcomed his first child, a daughter, Molly Dwyer. It was Tom's greatest joy being a father and he was thrilled to welcome a son, Ryan Paul, in 1993. Tom enjoyed coaching Ryan in baseball and watching Molly cheer on the sidelines of Cathedral sports. As a family, they loved vacationing at the beach and in the mountains. Tom was a life-long adventurer who was always up for a great meal or exploring a new place. The lakes of Michigan always stole his heart. From 1998 through 2011, he worked at Emmis Communications, selling advertising for Indianapolis Monthly Magazine. In his travels throughout the city, he became a connoisseur of fine restaurants and the cappuccino served at local coffee shops. He was a member of the Emmis Communications President's Club and his nickname was Million Dollar Man.

From 2011 to 2020, Tom sold outdoor advertising for Lamar, retiring at age 66 to enjoy the things he loved most in life – his family, his friends, traveling, and of course his bicycle. His favorite part of retirement was caring for his grandsons Rowan Thomas and Finley Ryan every Tuesday. He pretended to

not be a “dog guy” but Tom loved taking long walks with his dogs, most recently his affectionate Bernedoodle, Murphy, the “second worst dog he ever owned.”

Tom will be remembered for sporting a mustache that would make Tom Selleck green with envy. He had a smile that lit up a room and the way he said your name made you feel like you were the only person who mattered. He valued family above all else and everyone whom he met called him a friend. He is survived by his wife, Donna; a daughter, Molly Hess and her husband, Connor, and their two sons, Rowan and Finley Hess and one son, Ryan Paul Pitz. Tom’s five siblings survive him including sisters: Janeann Pitz and her husband, Reinhard Pollach, Marylynne Pitz and her husband, Mark Weitzman; brothers, Paul Nicholas Pitz and his wife, Barbara, Michael Pitz and his wife, Fay and John Pitz and his wife, Jill. Also surviving are his nephews: Andrew Pitz, Michael Pitz, Jacob Pitz, and Parker Dwyer and nieces, Megan Pitz, Lauren Pitz-Goncalves (Renan), Annie Brock, and Emily Dwyer. He is also survived by Trish Brock, sister in-law.

Services will be held Friday September 30, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 6050 N Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN with visitation from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mental Health America or Holliday Park Foundation.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **30**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6050 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 253-1277
<http://www.stpaulsindy.org>

Memorial Service

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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6050 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 253-1277
<http://www.stpaulsindy.org>

Tribute Wall

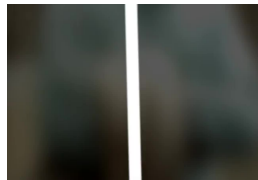
CW

“ Remembering shared holidays when the kids were little...water skiing on Geist Reservoir...playing trivial pursuit...vacation on Lake Wawasee. Tom was always kind, always had a smile. Deepest sympathies to Missy, Molly and Ryan. ~ Claire, Parker and Emily

Claire Wolfia - September 30, 2022 at 12:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - September 30, 2022 at 12:32 PM

MF

“ To our dear dear friend, so much love so much laughter we shared. We will miss you terribly but know you are always in our hearts. Love the Mitsch family

Mitsch family - September 29, 2022 at 08:51 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.



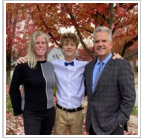
September 29, 2022 at 03:31 PM



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



September 29, 2022 at 12:20 PM



“ *Oh, Tommy P, the laughs we shared were many. You were the honest salesman and the true gentleman. Godspeed my friend!*
Steve Schneider

Barbara Schneider - September 29, 2022 at 06:36 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



September 28, 2022 at 08:19 PM



“ *The Moon Drops Distillery Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



The Moon Drops Distillery Team - September 28, 2022 at 04:14 PM

YT

“ *Your DE, RR, and RB team. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



Your DE, RR, and RB team. - September 28, 2022 at 12:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



September 27, 2022 at 08:53 PM

LG

“ *Don and I are so sorry for the passing of Tom. Donna, Ryan and Molly, you are in our thoughts and prayers. When I moved across the street from you in 2003, Tom was one of the first neighbors I met. He always had a smile and a kind word. Don and I always enjoyed talking about the Colts and college football with Tom. The world had lost a wonderful person.*

Lou Ann and Don Grossett - September 27, 2022 at 06:33 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



September 27, 2022 at 11:47 AM

GT

“ Gary and Merry Thoe purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.



Gary and Merry Thoe - September 27, 2022 at 11:39 AM

BM

“ Every member of our family got to know and love Tom through our kids' time at Cathedral H.S. and we will miss his bright smile and lively personality. May the Lord grant him eternal rest. Barb Maurath

Barb Maurath - September 27, 2022 at 09:26 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.



September 26, 2022 at 04:29 PM

DK

“ Tom had many good friends, I feel honored to have been one of them. We shared so many good times together. Rest in peace, Tommy P !

David Kiernan - September 26, 2022 at 02:03 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



September 26, 2022 at 04:37 AM



“ *John, Marylynne and the Pitz family:*

My deepest sympathies on the loss of your brother Tom.

Beatrice Drics-Bursten - September 25, 2022 at 05:32 PM



“ *Tommy was a dear friend of my brother Rick Cler who also attended Ball State and majored in Urban Planning. We joked about their Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning giving them the initials B.U.R.P. after their name. Tommy stuck closely to our family when Rick died tragically at Ball State when only 23. Tommy stayed in touch with our family over the years and became like a son/brother to us helping us grieve Rick's death and relive fond memories of him. So sorry for your loss we will miss Tommy!*
Barbara Cler Rund

Barbara Rund - September 25, 2022 at 03:40 PM



You were admired Tommy. DB

Daniel P Brown - September 26, 2022 at 10:46 PM

AG

Big Jim called me the day after Tom passed. I was in total shock. I had just rode with Tom the past Wednesday. Everything was normal. We had some great conversation. As our heart beat went up our conversations went up. I just cannot believe he is gone. He was a great friend and business associate. When he was working we would get together regularly and trade leads. It was always a treat to meet up. I am so sorry for the family. Please accept my sincere sympathy. May Tom rest in peace. I will never forget him.

Allen Cem Galloway - September 27, 2022 at 02:59 PM

JP

As Allen Cem Galloway shared, Tommy's cycling buddies and our cycling community at large are grieving the loss of Tommy P. Personally, Tommy and I shared so many interest, hobbies and family traditions. I will miss our pre-ride chats through Arden when we carried-on about music, the books we were reading, local cycling, Tour de France, Butler and IU basketball. Tommy taught me a little bit about bourbon and the ponies too.

God, I loved this guy!

To Donna, Molly, Ryan and the Pitz family I offer my condolences for your loss.

May Tommy's memory be a blessing.

*Jim Plant
"Jimmy P"*

James J Plant - October 22, 2022 at 09:17 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



September 25, 2022 at 11:51 AM

AB

“ *My deepest sympathies to the entire Pitz family on the loss of your brother, father, uncle.*



Alison Brown - September 25, 2022 at 04:22 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



September 24, 2022 at 08:29 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Richard Pitz.*



September 24, 2022 at 12:21 AM