



Theodore Joseph Tragesser

January 17, 1948 - March 19, 2022

Theodore (Ted) Joseph Tragesser peacefully passed away surrounded by his family on March 19, 2022 at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee, IL after his courageous battle against cancer. Born into this world January 17, 1948, the youngest of 12 children, on the family farm in Tipton, Indiana to the late Aloysius Anthony (A.A.) and Christina (Funke) Tragesser. A guiding voice to the extended A.A. Tragesser family, Ted is survived by his siblings Henni (Schuly) Schulenberg of Casper, WY, Constance Mumford of Kokomo, IN, Becky Soupley of Sharpsville, IN, Fran Mozzone of Ft. Wayne, IN, Donna (Dean) Tidler of Littleton, CO and John (Linda) Tragesser of Tipton, IN, as well as 150 nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews. He is welcomed into the heavenly halls of eternity by his parents and siblings Rita, Robert, James, Thomas, and Herb.

In 1968, Ted and Linda (Bowers) were lovingly joined in holy matrimony at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Tipton, Indiana; and they happily journeyed together for 54 years of marriage in Tipton, IN, Seattle WA, Crystal Lake, IL, Carpentersville, IL, Zionsville, IN, South Bend, IN, Yukon, OK, and Manteno IL. The original "Girl Dad", Ted raised three fiercely competitive soccer-playing daughters: Alison Renata (Robert Finley), Olivia Kate (Steve Breden), both of Chicago, IL and Carmen Desiree (Steve Cuchiara) of Denver, CO. "Papaw" also was the proud grandfather to four adoring grandchildren: Elizabeth Claire and Brendan Joseph Tragesser Finley, and Jack Tragesser and Luke Tragesser Breden.

Always a patriot with a passion for aviation, Ted enlisted in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, served in Naval Air maintaining pilot ejection systems, and was honorably discharged as a Petty Officer 3rd Class earning the National Defense Service Medal. He worked with his brother Tom at Swift Tool & Die before graduating from Indiana University. Ted subsequently was employed for more than 30 years by the Federal Aviation Administration and Lockheed Martin as an Air Traffic Controller in Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, South Bend, and Kankakee airports.

Ted's lifelong commitment to service in his community includes President of the Kankakee Air Show, President of the Michiana Soccer Association, head coach Junior Irish Girls Soccer Club Indiana State Champion, head coach Indiana University-South Bend soccer team, founder and coach Manteno High School soccer program, head coach of Wilmington High School soccer team, head coach of Kankakee Community College soccer team, active liturgical minister at St. Joseph Catholic Church Manteno, IL, Knights of Columbus and American Legion. Ted was dedicated to woodworking, parties with Parrot Heads, and, after building their family home, obsessively competing for Homes of the Midwest Yard and Lawn Curator-in-Chief Lifetime Achievement Award.

Family and friends are welcome to join a viewing to be held Monday, March 28, 2022 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM in Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, 291 North Main Street, Manteno, IL; to be followed immediately by funeral rites in St. Joseph's Catholic Church from 12:00PM at 207 South Main Street, Manteno, IL.

Rite of Committal and Interment will be celebrated privately at a later date at Abraham Lincoln Memorial National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

In lieu of flowers, please make donation in memory of Theodore Tragesser to support cancer research at the University of Chicago Medicine and its relentless team including Drs. Posner and Cattenacci. Checks may be made payable to the "University of Chicago Medicine" and sent to the following address: University of Chicago Gift Administration and Business Data,

Theodore Tragesser Memorial, 5235 S Harper Court, 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60615. Or, you can donate online at: <http://giving.uchicago.edu/Theodore-Tragesser>

Or donations can be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 207 S Main St, Manteno, IL 60950.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 28. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
291 N. Main St.
Manteno, IL 60950
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

MAR 28. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Church
207 S. Main St.
Manteno, IL 60950
(815) 468-3403
<http://www.stjosephmanteno.com>

Tribute Wall

CE

“ So sorry to hear of Ted’s passing. I worked with him in Indianapolis and South Bend. He was a good man.
Chuck Ellsworth

Charles Ellsworth - August 09, 2024 at 09:12 PM

DL

“ Linda and family so sorry to hear of your loss of Ted. Ron I are thinking of you and your family and our prayers are with you all.

Debbie and Ron Long

Debbie Long - March 31, 2022 at 01:32 AM

WF

“ Linda, you and your family are in our prayers! Such wonderful memories of an uncle who was a mentor and role model for so many. We will miss Ted, a forever youthful and generous spirit. Wishing you and your family peace!

Walter & Camille Parr and family - March 28, 2022 at 01:02 PM



“ 16 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - March 23, 2022 at 03:54 PM



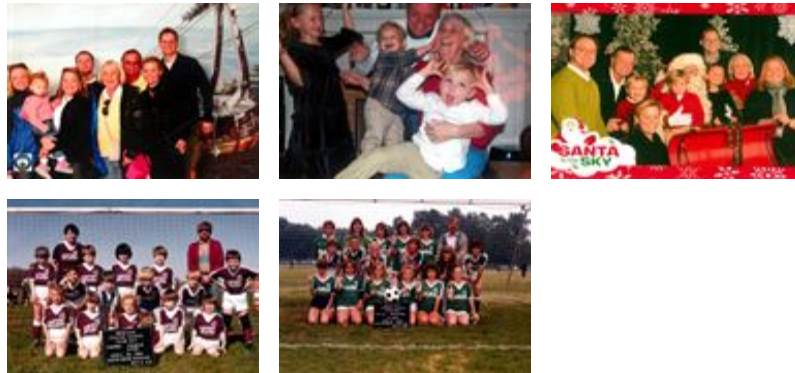
“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - March 23, 2022 at 02:46 PM



“ 59 files added to the album Life Tributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - March 23, 2022 at 01:30 PM

KW

“ We send our sincere sympathy to Linda and the family. Treasure your wonderful memories. Ted was such an asset to the Manteno High School soccer program. He touched so many young lives and left his mark on the entire soccer program.

Ken & Barbara Wenzel - March 22, 2022 at 08:38 PM

EE

“ I worked with Ted for many years starting back at DuPage airport and always found him to be a great guy and a pleasure to work with. Sorry to see him go.

Eugene Evans - March 22, 2022 at 01:16 PM

RC

“ Linda, I am so sad to hear of the passing of Ted. He was a wonderful man with a winning smile. I have many memories of him at St. John's. You and your family are in my prayers. May he rest in God's peace.

Rosie Cherven - March 22, 2022 at 11:52 AM

BM

“ *Linda and family we are so sorry for your loss. Sending our prayers for you. Butch and Katie Myers*


butch myers - March 22, 2022 at 08:10 AM

RH

“ *So very sorry for your loss, Linda and family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Rhonda Crabtree Harness

Rhonda Crabtree Harness - March 21, 2022 at 08:28 PM

 Lori Peachey

“ *Linda,
Sorry to hear about Ted. Please know I will be thinking of you.
Lori Peachey*

Lori Peachey - March 21, 2022 at 08:23 PM

JB

“ *So sorry to hear about Ted...thinking of you and your family. Ed & Judy Burton*

judy burton - March 21, 2022 at 08:07 PM