



Tommy Joe Laws

January 14, 1950 - April 10, 2023

Tommy “Tom” Joe Laws, 73, of Evansville, IN, passed away April 10, 2023 at Linda E. White Hospice House, surrounded by his loving family.

Tommy was born January 14, 1950 to the late Burford and Thelma Laws. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1968-1972 on the USS Havergard and the USS Joseph Strauss. Tom was a devoted husband, father of his two daughters, brother, and grandfather whose greatest pleasure was spending time with those he loved. Tom and Doris loved to travel and enjoyed life. He also traveled many miles on his motorcycle with his friends. Tom was a dedicated History teacher for 35 years at MSD of Mt. Vernon, Indiana. He was an avid sports fan. During his teaching career, he coached football and baseball. He also loved coaching his daughter, Kendyll, on her soccer and softball teams. Tom is survived by his wife of 20 years, Doris; his daughter, Kendyll Laws and grandson, Finn of Glasgow, Kentucky; grandsons Austin Ellis and Zach Ellis of Illinois; and daughters Sarah Sanders (Ryan Shanahan and two children, Sandy and Frankie) and Chelsea Sanders (Sarah Perfetti) of Bloomington, Indiana. He is also survived by his sisters Theresa Frost of Taylorsville, Illinois and Treva (Don) Cruz of Benton, Illinois; mother-in-law, Gerry McFadin, and brother-in-law, Mac McFadin of Mt. Vernon, Indiana; and sister-in-law, Kathy Tobias, of Crawfordsville, Indiana.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his brother, LaVern, and his daughter, Rhiannon Laws.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Rapp-Owen Granary located at 413

Granary Street, New Harmony, Indiana from 1:00-3:00 PM on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Tom was recently diagnosed with aggressive mesothelioma as a result of asbestos exposure during his deployment. The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at Gateway Deaconess Hospital and Linda E. White Hospice House for their excellent and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, Tom's family would ask that you make a donation in his honor to Disabled Veterans (<https://www.dav.org/>)

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **15**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Rapp-Owen Granary
413 Granary St
New Harmony, IN 47631
(812) 682-3050

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Tommy Joe Laws.



April 14, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about this. Please accept my sympathy.*

Jason Maddix - April 12, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Condolences to Tommy's family and friends, sorry for your loss.*

Garry Fisher - April 12, 2023 at 05:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Tommy Joe Laws.



April 12, 2023 at 03:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tommy Joe Laws.*



April 12, 2023 at 08:40 AM



“ *Can still recite some of the Declaration of Independence because of this man and I am 27 years old. Just shows how great of a teacher he was and how much of an impact he made. ❤️ See you later on, Mr. Laws. Thank you for your service in more than one ways to this country.*

Jayclyn Wolfe - April 11, 2023 at 08:01 AM



Thank you Jaclyn for your kind comments about my brother. He would be proud of you!

Treva Cruz - April 11, 2023 at 11:54 AM



I will miss this dear man so much. He was a light of joy and source of good conversation at our family get togethers and holidays. He had a way of 'inviting you in' and making you feel so welcome with his genuine kindness and easy conversation. It was such a blessing to get to know him and share family moments together over the years. He loved talking about Finn, and being around all the grandkids brought a big smile to his face. It was a big unexpected blessing in life to know such a good man. He will be missed, but we will continue to share the wonderful stories and memories of this precious man always. Many prayers to Doris, the girls and all who loved him so.

Bev - April 11, 2023 at 12:35 PM

DP

“ Tom and I taught at MVJHS together, and we played tennis every summer for twenty-five years. Our last tennis match was two summers ago, but they will always be my favorite memories. Tom always made me work harder, and I will always remember him. Save a match for when we meet again.

dave purvis - April 11, 2023 at 06:46 AM

TC

*He really enjoyed playing tennis with you
As you know he was very competitive! Thank you for sharing this
memory.*

Treva Cruz - April 11, 2023 at 11:52 AM

TE

*Condolences to Dorris and family.
Pastor T*

Tyrone Edwards - April 14, 2023 at 11:11 AM

LZ

“ Tommy and I spent a lot of travel time together on motorcycles, RVs and cars. Our most memorable trip was a motorcycle trip from Mount Vernon to Belize through Mexico. Along with Steve Fuelling we motorcycled through the whole length of Mexico in 3 days. Our wives all flew into Belize City. At one point in Mexico we got separated because Tom left the map with his wife so she would know where he was going rather than taking it himself. And since he didn't have his phone setup for international calling we could not contact him. I had an international phone and I had to tell Doris that he's lost somewhere in the Yucatán jungle. Luckily Tom and Steve eventually arrived at the hotel in Belize 8 hours late. But the worse thing about trip is that Tom didn't want to swim in Belize because he got blisters from his motorcycle seat. He left his motorcycle at the Belize City airport and rented a car for a more comfortable ride. After a week he his posterior got better and he rode his motorcycle back home.

Larry Zoller - April 10, 2023 at 11:34 PM

TC

Thank you for sharing that memory. He sure loved those motorcycle trips.

Treva Cruz - April 11, 2023 at 11:57 AM

PR

Tom was a wonderful person. In addition to him being a friend and colleague, he was my son Jim' s football coach in Jr. High School. Jim has fond memories of Tom and said he was a great football coach. Tom will be dearly missed.

patricia redwine - April 11, 2023 at 12:12 PM

DK

We are so very sorry to learn of Tom's passing. Dan taught with Tom for many years at Mt. Vernon Junior High School. They had many a "discussion" over politics all in a good spirit. Dan thought a lot of Tom and I know he will be missed by many. Sending love to the family and wishing you all peace in this time of sorrow. Donna and Dan Kinnaird

Dan Kinnaird - April 14, 2023 at 05:53 PM