



## Thomas Earl Irving

July 27, 1946 - May 28, 2017

Tom Irving, son of Marian Grace Irving (nee Forman) (1923-2006), and Wallace Earl Irving (1917-1993). Tom (aka Papa Tom, aka Santa Tom) passed from this world peacefully into the arms of the Lord Sunday, May 28, 2017 while comfortably napping in his favorite chair, seated beside his doting wife & best friend of nearly 18 years, Terry Irving. He was born in Lexington, KY, graduated from Falls Church High School in Fairfax, VA, and went on to earn an Associate Degree in Political Science from Florida State University. Tom was a master of many trades, his favorite being crew chief for a 24-hour Valvoline racing team that traveled the country. In his later years, Tom was known to many as Santa Tom, Atlanta's Real Santa, which he viewed as a ministry of sorts. He and his wife, Terry brought the magic of Christmas to many over the years. Tom & Terry were founding members of The Brotherhood of the Direct Descendants of Santa, through which they collaborated and fellowshiped with Santas and Mrs. Clauses nationwide. Tom and Terry met at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Conyers, GA, where they were both active members. Tom ministered in numerous ways, including serving on Cursillo retreats, in the Returning Catholics program, The Knights of Columbus, Parish Council and in the Life Teen ministry. Through these many ministries, Tom touched countless lives. All who knew Tom will remember his gregarious belly laugh, his biting sarcasm, and his unconditional love. There are many children who are now adults - many with children of their own - who Tom unofficially 'adopted' and helped through some

difficult years, and who would come back and visit him particularly during the holidays. Tom's love was so big. Tom didn't want us to cry or be sad when he left this world. He had such a strong faith and wanted us to celebrate his welcoming into Heaven. Let us celebrate his life and his unconditional love, share our many wonderful memories of him, and keep his spirit alive in our hearts. Tom is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Therese 'Terry' Marie Irving (nee Reynolds Lynch) (aka Mrs. Claus) to whom he was joyfully married November 6, 1999. Tom is also survived by first wife, Sandra P. Grandazzo, their sons, Thomas Christopher Irving of Knoxville, TN and Jeffrey Edward Irving and Mandy of Lake Worth, FL, along with one granddaughter, Rylin; second wife, Shirley Y. Salas (nee Howard), their children, Stephanie Suzanne Sentinella and husband, Josh of Covington, GA and Joseph Michael Irving and wife, Shanna of Marietta, GA and grandchildren, Carter, Simon, Sienna and Isabella; nephew, Christopher Allen Baker, who was like a son to Tom; step-children, Lorraine Lynch and husband, Terrence Bernard, Adrienne Jones and husband, Jason, Joseph Lynch and wife, Michele, and step-grandchildren, Dakota, Diego, Paoma and Penelope, Seth and Adam; siblings, Donna Lee Gray and family of Huntsville, AL, Jon Howard Irving and family of Gainesville, GA, Robert Michael 'Mike' Irving and family of Hartford, CT, Patricia Ann Wenzel and family of Virginia Beach, VA. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 10 a.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church with Father Greg Goolsby as Celebrant; interment at Honey Creek Woodlands, Conyers. Family will receive friends Friday, June 2, 2017 from 6 until 9 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, Tom would appreciate donations sent to the Atlanta Catholic Cursillo Movement, P.O. Box 464577, Lawrenceville, GA 30042 [www.atlcatholiccursillo.org](http://www.atlcatholiccursillo.org). Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Cemetery Details

## Honey Creek Woodlands

2625 Hwy 212 SW  
Honey Creek Woodlands, GA 30094

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 2. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Scot Ward Funeral Services at Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Road  
Conyers, GA 30012

## Service

JUN 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Pius X Catholic Church  
2621 Hwy 20 SE  
Conyers, GA 30013

# Tribute Wall

DT

“ *My family and I are all grieving with this news. Santa Tom will forever be the personification of Love to us. He was a kind and gentle soul.*

Dana Tanner - July 19, 2017 at 01:09 PM

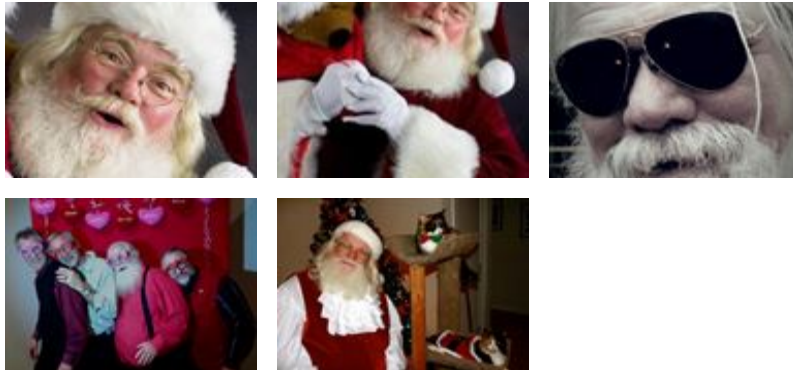
IV

“ *A lovely, faithful friend. He will be missed. Our heartfelt condolences to Terry and family. -- Irma and Alonso Nunez*

Irma Velasco-Nunez - June 02, 2017 at 04:48 PM



“ *47 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Scot Ward Funeral Services - June 02, 2017 at 12:09 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Earl Irving.*



June 02, 2017 at 10:08 AM

RP

“ Tom was a good friend I met through Cursillo. The talks he gave were very inspirational, and he, and they, will be missed.

*Thanks Tom.*

*Richard Prescott*

---

**Richard Prescott** - May 31, 2017 at 03:27 PM

JJ


“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you. It was a privilege to have met Tom. A man who is loved by so many is so rare and special.

*With sincere sympathy,*

*Jane and Robert Jones*

---

**Jane Jones** - May 31, 2017 at 11:21 AM

  
Kathryne  
Pusch

“ Tom was a constant, an always smiling face and kind word at his parish home of St Pius X in Conyers. We will see him and feel him with us each time we gather in the Lord's name. May he rest in peace, having earned his heavenly reward with his baptism in the Trinity and a lifetime of good works offered up to our heavenly father. My love and prayers are with Terry and all of Tom's family.  
*Kathryne Pusch*

---

**Kathryne Pusch** - May 31, 2017 at 10:39 AM

LM

“ Tom was and will always be special...He will always be in our hearts.

*Our Prayers are with you Terry and Family.*

*Cursillo will be different without Tom there --  
But he wants us to continue the movement strong.*

*We will always remember our Brother, Santa, His Smile and Him Laughing --- He will always be with us.*

*Your Cursillo Brothers and Sisters are with you Terry and Family.....*

*And to Tom -- De Colores.....*

*Laurie and Norma Macias*

---

**Laurie Macias** - May 31, 2017 at 10:10 AM



KS

“ What we have once enjoyed,we can never lose.  
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

*Tom had a heart with room for EVERYONE,*

*Kathy Sanders*

*Rhiannon Bell*

*Melissa McKnight*

---

**Kathy Sanders** - May 31, 2017 at 06:30 AM

OA

“ So sorry to hear about your loss Terry. I just read the email. My thoughts and prayers are with you my friend. You spoke so much about him during our cursillo retreat together!! Your love for him was obvious due to your smile and tears of happiness as you described how much love and respect you had for each other. I wish I could have had the opportunity to meet him. He is with the lord and his spirit will guide you and protect you and your family always. RIP Mr. Irving and I love you dearly Terry..  
God bless you and may he give you the strength you need to move forward and know the Holy Spirit is protecting you.. De Colores!!  
Love you your sister In Christ and friend..  
Cookie...

---

**olga alместica** - May 30, 2017 at 11:22 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Thomas Earl Irving.



---

May 30, 2017 at 10:49 PM

JB

“ I have many wonderful memories of Tom dating back to the mid 80's when he first started working at a small car repair shop in Lilburn, Ga. and then that shop moved to Conyers, Ga. where Tom became the Crew Chief for the Valvoline Racing Team. He was the best at what he did, always- there is on one like this sweet man ! He touched so many lives in his lifetime, he will be truly missed by many ! Tom could never say no, he would help anyone- such a good man and loved the Lord. The Beizer Family send their sincere condolences and prayers to all of the Tom Irving Family, for Peace an Comfort. Terry, we send our love to you, you guys together inspired so many ! Jennifer Beizer, Morgan Beizer Adams, Logan and Jafer Beizer

---

**Jennifer Beizer** - May 30, 2017 at 10:14 PM

T(

“ My daughter, Ashleigh and I had an amazing visit with Tom and Terry in Las Vegas. We spent two wonderful evenings together. Those memories have meant so much to us. Ashleigh was particularly touched when Tom embraced her as family. Tears and blessings.....Tess Traub and Ashleigh Borglund. You and your extended family are in our prayers Terry.



---

**Tess (Traub)** - May 30, 2017 at 08:35 PM

JM

“ *Leader School will never be the same for me without Tom. I will miss his warm hugs and kisses. Tom is such a wonderful disciple of Christ. Thank you Tom for selfless giving of yourself and time to every Cursillo weekend. You have touched many lives.*

*Juney Meredith*

---

**Juney Meredith** - May 30, 2017 at 08:28 PM

