



## Thomas J. Kearney

November 28, 1953 - September 8, 2016

Thomas J. Kearney, 62, of Kankakee passed away on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at Riverside Medical Center. He was born on November 28, 1953 in Elmhurst, the son of Floyd and Lorraine (Powalisz) Kearney. Tom married Susan Kloth, who survives in Kankakee.

Tom was known as “Papa Science” and “Coach Kearney” to many children in the area. He taught Science, Biology and Animal Behavior at Stagg High School in Palos Hills and Andrew High School in Tinley Park; also substitute teaching at Kankakee Junior High. Along with teaching, Tom worked to implement recycling in schools, coached Track, Football, Little League, participated in 4H, was a Cub Scout Leader, member of the Kankakee Park District and many other activities. “Earth Stewards” was a non-profit organization that Tom started to create hands on science education in schools. He was the published author of two books, which were published in a Mathematical Professional Journal. Tom was a Teacher Advisor at Brookfield Zoo. His most recent project was being a Science Consultant for Mosamack, which made educational videos for science classrooms.

Being an Alumni and Big Ten Letterman at the University of Illinois, Tom was a season ticket holder and part of the Legacy Lounge. He enjoyed attending Fighting Illini games and being a “Beach Papa”.

Tom wore many hats, but mostly his Fighting Illini one.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Kearney of Kankakee; two sons Adam (Patricia) Kearney of Midlothian and Kevin (Amy) Kearney of St. Anne; one daughter Julie (Joe) Glogowski of St. Anne; one sister Kathleen Blazek of Streamwood; two brothers William (Debi) Kearney of Michigan and Michael (Susan) Kearney of St. Louis; and eight grandchildren Alyssa, Noah, Alanna, Emily, Kylie, Camden, Chloe and Colten. He was preceded in death by his parents and two nephews Christopher Blazek and Sean Blazek.

Visitation will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016 from 2pm-8pm at Schreffler Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Funeral service will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 12pm, with additional visitation starting at 9am, at the funeral home. Rev. Jeff Horch will officiate the service. Burial will follow at Aroma Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Julia's Legacy of Hope ([cureitfoundation.org/julias-legacy-of-hope](http://cureitfoundation.org/julias-legacy-of-hope)). Please feel free to bring pop tabs to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"Have a good day."

# Cemetery Details

## Aroma Park Cemetery

Sandbar Road  
Aroma Park, IL 60910

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **12.** 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Bourbonnais Chapel  
1100 N. Convent St.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-2421

## Visitation

SEP **13.** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Bourbonnais Chapel  
1100 N. Convent St.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-2421

## Funeral Service

---

SEP **13**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Bourbonnais Chapel  
1100 N. Convent St.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-2421

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas J. Kearney*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Tom Kearney, a self starter very confident man. he was wonderful giving. So many people and children were so lucky to have been in his path thru life. My family and I got to know him thru his travels . He was the Scout master of pack 341. I was his ast master , between us that was. Woman weren't ast leaders in scout packs. Tom made it work until he could get a man to do the job.*

*I was not sure if all the things he did in his llife would fiit in to his obit. it only touched the surfice of what he accomplished. I was not surprised to find out that Tom was in my best friends life due to his love of horses and his wife and daughter.*

*His family is proof of what a great man he was. He will never be for gotten.. I was so blessed to have had him pass thru my life and my familes. You will be forever missed by all who knew you . God had other plans for you my friend.*

*Jill Arrigo*

Jill T Arrigo - September 15, 2016 at 10:07 PM

LH

“ I worked with Tom at Andrew and was always impressed with his love of science and his respect for everyone, especially the kids he taught. He was both a wonderful scientist and a great teacher. Kids trusted him...we all did. What a good man. He will be missed. Lee Harsy

---

**Lee Harsy** - September 14, 2016 at 07:49 AM

GF

“ We are sorry to hear about your lost. Our thoughts and prayers our with you and your family.

---

**Grabowski Family** - September 13, 2016 at 06:59 PM

CV

“ Cheryl Voustros lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Kearney



---

**Cheryl Voustros** - September 13, 2016 at 06:34 PM

RI

“ My deepest sympathy to Tom's family. It was an honor to work with Tom at Andrew High School and I remember his love of science and his passion to share his scientific knowledge with his students. His devotion knew no bounds. I remember him coming to me to show me his latest acquisition of a South American (huge) cockroach for Animal Behavior, and his proposal to break a hole in the brick to set up a "safe" beehive with a viewing window in his classroom. One Monday I came to work and heard the custodians' adventure chasing the animals who escaped their cages down the first floor hallway. All in the name of science! Good memories...I am sure all who write a tribute have the same. Tom, God Bless You, and your family.

*Dr. Rita Wojtylewski*

---

**Rita** - September 12, 2016 at 09:00 PM

KZ

“ Coach Kearney will be greatly missed. He was a great coach, teacher, and mentor. As a former athlete of his, I will never forget how he inspired me and has helped me throughout the years. Miss you Coach!

*Kim Nowak-Zartler*

---

**Kim Zartler** - September 12, 2016 at 08:41 PM



JB

“ So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I worked with him at Andrew High School where I was a guidance counselor. Tom loved kids and loved teaching. It was second nature to him and he seemed excited to share his love of nature with young people. He was kind to everyone and was a colleague I'll always remember. My condolences to your family.  
Joyce Bibzak

-----  
**Joyce Bibzak** - September 12, 2016 at 08:34 PM

MP

“ Tom will be missed. He was a wonderful man. My deepest sympathy to the Kearney family. Mary Posing

-----  
**Mary Posing** - September 12, 2016 at 04:14 PM

MA

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Kearney family.  
Dave and Marla Nelson



-----  
**Marla** - September 12, 2016 at 02:33 PM

DM

“ I went to High-school with Tom. He was one of the nicest guys I knew. Always friendly and willing to give of his time. He was a great guy !



-----  
**Don Murray** - September 12, 2016 at 12:10 PM

AW

“ Amanda West lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Kearney



Amanda West - September 10, 2016 at 02:25 PM

MS

“ Mark And Leslie Strozier sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas J. Kearney



Mark and Leslie Strozier - September 10, 2016 at 11:58 AM

CS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Both of my kids loved him and lived learning from him. He will be greatly missed.

Chris Senesac - September 10, 2016 at 11:45 AM

TB

“ Our Deepest Sympathy to the Kearney Family.💖



Tim & Vickie (Cox) Bertrand - September 10, 2016 at 11:45 AM

SA

“ Seth And Stacy Allen lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Kearney



Seth and Stacy Allen - September 10, 2016 at 11:18 AM

CH

*Always enjoyed working with Tom. He was a positive role model for our track athletes. My prayers are with his family.*

Cathy Harper - September 12, 2016 at 08:36 AM

BS

*I played football and basketball with Tom at Proviso West. One of the nicest guys I knew through my high school days. A gentle giant! He will be missed.*

Bill Sykora - September 12, 2016 at 02:20 PM

LM

*My deepest sympathies to all of Tom's family members. I'm sure a huge void will be felt by all who knew and loved him. As a VJA co-worker I had nothing but respect for him. He was always willing to do what was in the best interest of the student. He was an amazing teacher and caring individual. His students knew he was genuinely concerned about them as learners and as individuals. Lorraine Mulligan*

Lorraine Mulligan - September 12, 2016 at 10:42 PM

MM

*Mark Morehead  
I played basketball at Proviso West with Tom. I have always had great respect for Tom.  
Great man!  
Gentle Giant!  
My sympathy to his family!*

Mark Morehead - September 21, 2016 at 02:57 PM