



Thomas Edwin Plass

January 31, 1953 - December 29, 2024

Thomas Edwin Plass, age 71, entered into Eternal life on December 29th, 2024 with his wife Jean and brother Charles by his side following an unexpected rare illness.

Thomas was born January 31, 1953 in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin to Leo and Helen (Dietzler) Plass. He resided in Boyd, WI. He learned his Catholic faith from his parents and the sisters and priests at St. Joseph's Catholic school. He graduated from Stanley-Boyd High School in 1971, then attended Eau Claire Technical School for 2 years followed by the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and joined P & H Harnischfeger, a crane manufacturer in Milwaukee, WI. He worked on overhead cranes for Harnischfeger and its offshoots for over 40 years before retiring and settling in Salisbury, NC.

Tom was a mentor to many colleagues. He excelled in repairing customers' large cranes on site which led him to many exciting "adventures" throughout the Americas. Tom's work ethic was second to none. He liked doing things the old-school way, relying on a plumb-bob and fishline instead of the new technology.

Tom was a kind and generous man helping family and friends out during hard times. We brought our Parish Priest with us to Italy for the Archbishop's

appointment to a Cardinal by the Pope.

Tom and his wife Jean loved traveling the world. They went to many pilgrimages, including Oberammergau, Fatima, Lourdes, Spain, and Israel with niece Amy. Tom shared his love of steam trains with his great nephews, Michael and Eli, with a train ride through the mountains of Colorado and New Mexico. Then there are the countless trips he made with his wife around the US, Egypt, Europe, their special love of Hawaii, and of course, back home to Boyd, WI.

Thomas is survived by Jean, his devoted wife of 35 years, brothers Charles, James (Pat), Stephen (Penny), brother-in-law Maurice Costello (Debra), sisters-in-law Ann Costello and Mary Ellen McEwen (Thomas deceased). Thomas is also survived by nieces and nephews Michael Plass (Heather), Bryan Plass (Miriam), Jeremiah Plass-Johnson, Zach McCarty (Amanda), Alexa Bach (Eldred), Nathaniel Plass, Amy Larson (Kurt), Kevin Costello, Jeffrey Kumbera, Andrew Kumbera, and Bradley Kumbera. Thomas was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation is at 10:00am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 375 Lumen Christi Lane in Salisbury, NC, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00am on Monday, January 6, 2025. Burial will be at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church cemetery. Facebook and YouTube live stream links can be found on the church website: <https://salisburycatholic.org/>

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to NORD (National Organization for Rare Disorders), Dept. 5930, PO Box 4110, Woburn, MA 01888.

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
375 Lumen Christi Lane
Salisbury, NC 28144

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
375 Lumen Christi Lane
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

JF

“ Judeen Brewer your etsy friend purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Thomas Edwin Plass.



Judeen Brewer your etsy friend - January 10, 2025 at 04:19 PM

GD

“ I worked with Thomas at P&H for many years. He was one of the best engineers I ever worked with.

GARY J DAVIS - January 08, 2025 at 02:44 PM

KS

“ Hi Jean! This is Karen, Debbie's sister. I'm so sorry for your loss, thinking of you ❤️

karen Schumacher - January 07, 2025 at 03:56 PM

JO

“ I like to share the unfortunate news of the passing of a long time accomplished overhead crane engineer which many in the overhead crane industry have worked with Thomas Edwin Plass, employed 40 plus years by P&H Harnischfeger Industries. I feel very blessed to have been a colleague and a friend with Thomas Plass a highly professional accomplished overhead crane engineer and a quality group of colleagues at P&H Harnischfeger Industries.

Thomas taught so many of us and a leader for all in the overhead Crane industry, Thomas was a sincere pleasure to be associated with.

My thoughts and prayers to the entire Plass family.,

Sincerely, John “Zeke” Zellmer.

<https://lnkd.in/g9qwri6m> Plass/#!/TributeWall

<https://lnkd.in/gtvXVjuX>

<https://lnkd.in/gtvXVjuX>

john - January 07, 2025 at 10:11 AM

JZ

“ My thoughts and prayers to the entire Plass family,

I feel very blessed to have been a colleague and a friendship of Thomas Plass a highly professional accomplished overhead crane engineer employed for 40 plus years by a quality group of colleagues at P&H Harnischfeger Industries.

Thomas taught so many of us and a leader for all in the overhead Crane Industry , Thomas was a sincere pleasure to be associated with Sincerely, John “Zeke” Zellmer.

John Zellmer - January 06, 2025 at 11:11 AM

DB

“ I work with Thomas for 30 years. I enjoyed his mentorship and friendship. Thomas will be deeply missed.

Dave Barrett - January 06, 2025 at 10:46 AM

RY

“ After I first met Thomas I addressed him as Tom for almost a year before he told me he prefers Thomas. He became a mentor to me and a friend

Richard Yasenchack

Richard Yasenchack - January 05, 2025 at 07:07 PM

LS

“ Linda Swendrowski purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Edwin Plass.



Linda Swendrowski - January 04, 2025 at 02:37 PM

KH

“ Kim and Sandy Hall purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas Edwin Plass.



Kim and Sandy Hall - January 04, 2025 at 12:19 PM

KH

“ *Kim and Sandy Hall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Edwin Plass.*

Kim and Sandy Hall - January 04, 2025 at 12:19 PM