



Thomas Philip Harlan

October 31, 1944 - February 8, 2025

Thomas Philip Harlan, born on October 31, 1944, passed away on February 8, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, kindness, and service to his community. A longtime resident of Mt. Gretna and originally from Cleona, Pennsylvania, Tom was known not only for his unwavering commitment to the betterment of Lebanon County but also for his easygoing demeanor, warm smile, and ability to make everyone feel welcome. He treated everyone he met as a close friend, quick with a joke, always ready with a kind word, a hearty laugh, or an encouraging piece of advice.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Becky Gacono-Harlan; his sons, Scott Harlan and Adam Harlan; his cherished grandchildren, Kaya Harlan Rogers, Finneas Harlan, Andrew Harlan, and Anderson Harlan; his stepchildren, Emily, Lani, Rhiannon, and Britt; and his sister, Elinor Fox. He was the loving son of Elizabeth and Philip Harlan.

A proud graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Villanova School of Law, Tom dedicated his professional life to the legal field, serving as a lawyer at Henry & Beaver and as a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association for over 50 years. Despite his many accomplishments, he carried himself with humility and always made time to help others. His contributions to the legal community were profound, including his tenure as past president of the Lebanon County Bar Association and his service with the Lebanon County Legal Services Association, where he provided free legal representation to those in need.

Beyond his legal career, Tom's passion for service extended to his community. He was an active member and past president of The Lions Club, and from 1985 to 2004, he served as president of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, where he remained on the Board of Governors since 1980. He also played a vital role on the Governor Dick Board in Mt. Gretna, offering legal guidance and volunteering countless hours to preserve the Clarence Schock Memorial Park.

Tom's easygoing nature made him a joy to be around. He had a way of making people feel valued and understood, sharing stories and enjoying the company of friends and family. He found joy in life's simple pleasures—hiking in Mt. Gretna, playing golf, listening to jazz, or getting lost in a good book. An avid athlete and adventurer, he embraced the spirit of perseverance, running the Philadelphia Half Marathon and skiing with the motto, "First chair, last chair." He was also a founding member of the Mt. Gretna Lakers Volleyball Club, a nationally competitive touring team that thrived under his leadership. He lived by the words "Press on, regardless," a motto that guided him through life's challenges and inspired those around him. His ability to bring people together and make life a little brighter for those around him will never be forgotten.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Annville American Legion on Sunday, February 16, from 1 PM to 4 PM, at 35 S. Manheim St., Annville, PA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his honor to the Lebanon Lions Club and the Annville Cleona Fire Department, reflecting his spirit of service and community involvement.

Tribute Wall

BK

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Brian Kreider - February 20, 2025 at 07:33 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of **Thomas Philip Harlan**.



February 15, 2025 at 08:01 AM

VD

“ *Tom always was very kind to me; he always encouraged me and was happy for my continued success. He was like a fatherly figure to me sharing the same birthday as my own father: October 31st. May god rest his soul in peace.*

Vijay Deshpande - February 13, 2025 at 04:36 PM

BK

“ Speaking for my late twin brother Bruce and the cast of the Blue Eyed Six documentary film, we are deeply saddened to learn of Tom's passing. He wasn't just a wonderful friend, he was a most generous friend. Tom's interview and appearance toward the end of the film was like the "Our Town" character who took us by the hand and guided us through the legal missteps of this historic courtroom drama. We were all honored by his presence and wish you heartfelt sympathy and the strength from fond memories.

Brian W. Kreider - February 12, 2025 at 10:32 AM

AC

“ From: Apple Trademarks & Copyright planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Philip Harlan.

Apple Trademarks & Copyright - February 11, 2025 at 06:45 PM

AC

“ Apple Trademarks & Copyright purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Thomas Philip Harlan.



Apple Trademarks & Copyright - February 11, 2025 at 06:45 PM

JK

“ I met Tom when I worked as a server at NIKOS. Loved seeing him and you, Becky, when you came in. Often saw him out somewhere else many times and always said hello. Despite his declining condition, he was always smiling and kind. ❤️.

jane Krick - February 11, 2025 at 04:39 PM

LH

“ *Becky,*

While nothing can fill the void created by the loss of your husband, may fond memories bring you and your family comfort during this painful time. You have my sincerest sympathy for your loss.

Lisa (Cintron) Higgitt



Lisa Higgitt - February 10, 2025 at 10:40 PM