



Thomas Bennis

July 20, 1930 - June 26, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Thomas Bennis, who departed this life peacefully on June 26, 2025, in Sarasota, Florida, at the age of 94. Surrounded by his loving family, Thomas left behind a legacy of strength, devotion, and enduring love.

Born on July 20, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York, Thomas was the beloved son of Thomas and Susan Bennis and brother to James (Buddy) Bennis and Catherine (Kitty) Meinck. From an early age, he embodied a deep sense of duty and commitment that would guide him throughout his life.

Thomas proudly served in the United States Navy for eight years during both the Korean and Cold Wars. His service aboard the USS Coral Sea Aircraft Carrier was a source of immense pride and reflected his unwavering dedication to his country.

Following his military service, Thomas embarked on a long and successful career with AT&T, where he worked diligently for 37 years. His work ethic and integrity earned him the respect of colleagues and peers alike.

A man deeply rooted in faith and community; Thomas was an active member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center. Of late, enjoyed participating in the mass services at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in

Sarasota. He also found camaraderie and purpose through his involvement with the Navy League of Tampa, USS Coral Sea Association, Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Thomas had a passion for golf and cherished time spent on the course. Whether enjoying a quiet round or sharing stories in the evening with friends like Ronald Dickey, he found joy in simple pleasures and meaningful connections.

Above all else, Thomas was devoted to his family. He shared a beautiful life with his wife, Patricia Bennis, whose love and partnership of 71 years were central to his journey. Together they raised seven daughters: Patricia Devine (and husband John), Bernadette Steinmann (and husband Michael), Diane Benner (and partner Gary Autz), Jeanette Seidof (and husband Robert), Rita Keelen (and husband Peter), Veronica Bennis, and Eileen Schneider.

As the proud patriarch, Thomas's greatest joy came from being surrounded by those he loved most. His eyes would light up whenever all seven of his daughters gathered—a sight that brought him immense happiness. He was also blessed with 25 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren who often turned to him for wisdom and guidance. Thomas's warmth extended beyond family; he was a friend to many and a steady presence in the lives he touched.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Shriners Hospitals for Children—causes close to Thomas's heart.

A Wake will be held for family and friends on July 9, 2025, from 5 to 8 PM at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, Florida.

A Funeral Mass will be held on July 10, 2025, at 10 AM at St. Thomas More,

2506 Gulf Gate Drive. Sarasota, Florida.

A Military Burial will be held on July 10, 2025, from 12:15 to 1 PM at Sarasota National Cemetery 9810 State Road 72 (Clark Road), Sarasota, Florida.

May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him and continue to inspire generations to come.

Previous Events

A wake

JUL 9. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-4171
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Funeral Mass

JUL 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
2506 Gulf Gate Drive
Sarasota, FL 34231

Burial With Military Honors

JUL 10. 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Tribute Wall



“ Tom lived an excellent life — not just in years, but in the richness of the relationships he nurtured and the legacy he leaves behind. Though we mourn his passing, we celebrate a life well lived and a soul that will never be forgotten. We are honored to have known him and to be a part of his extended family.
Lori & Ray Rodriguez

Lori & Ray Rodriguez - July 10, 2025 at 12:24 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Bennis.

July 09, 2025 at 11:59 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Bennis.



July 09, 2025 at 12:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Bennis.

July 07, 2025 at 06:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Bennis.*



July 07, 2025 at 06:36 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Colleen Walker - July 06, 2025 at 03:11 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences. As a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians we had the great privilege to work and spend time with Tom. Tom was a founding member of the AOH in Sun City Center and Pat has been a member of the Ladies Ancient Order since 2000. Enjoyed his beautiful rendition of Danny Boy at all events with the AOH/LAOH. Tom lived with a spirit that touched so many lives, kind, generous, and always ready to help. May he rest in peace.*

Liz DiLacqua



Elizabeth DiLacqua - July 06, 2025 at 05:46 AM

JF

“ *Jim Fletcher lit a candle in memory of Thomas Bennis*



Jim Fletcher - July 03, 2025 at 06:22 AM

SC

*My Deepest Sympathy to Pat and GREAT Family . We were friends for 27 years , ENJOYED Toms since of humor, his warm smile and always a Welcome Greeting . We did some traveling with Tom and Pat, Tom was very knowledgeable and interesting to be with.
I have many , many treasured wonderful memories ,his kind words when he gave a heart warming urology of my Don who passed 3 years ago . Tom will be missed by many . Blessings.
Shirley Carroll*

Shirley Carroll - July 05, 2025 at 11:34 PM

LC

“ *My heartfelt condolences to all of the family. I have so many fond memories of Tom and meeting your wonderful family. I still remember showing up for a softball game and showing a few of you my 1959 Black Impala convertible. Not sure but think I gave a ride to Bernadette.
Loved how close you all were to your Dad and Mom. Inspirational!
God bless Tom and all of you.
Lou Capolino*

Lou Capolino - July 03, 2025 at 12:25 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Bennis.



July 02, 2025 at 01:54 PM



“ I had the honor of working for Tom at AT&T. He recognized my potential and mentored me. He was a great boss and a wonderful man. I owe my successful career at AT&T in no small part to Tom. May you all find comfort in the fact that Tom positively impacted many folks at AT&T throughout his career there. May he rest in peace.

Pat Geraci - July 02, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ Dear Pat and family, I'm so sorry to hear this news. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Tom was a dear friend to me in our ATT years and he remained so after we all retired. I always looked forward to the ATT luncheons so I could see his pleasant smile and enjoy the conversations reviewing our times playing ball, working at 811 and just growing up together. There are no words that are adequate when a dear friend passes. Tom was a wonderful man and he (and you) raised a wonderful family. May God bless every one of you and help you through these times.
All our love,
Carl and Francie Vernieri

carlo vernieri - July 02, 2025 at 10:52 AM