



Thomas Edward Danson, Jr.

December 17, 1933 - July 31, 2016

Former State Representative Thomas E. Danson, Jr., 82, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side.

He leaves his wife of fifty-nine years, Sophia, his daughters Tia and Stephanie, his grandson Thomas E. Danson III (Helen) and their children, Aidan, Asher, and Luna. He was predeceased by his son George Thomas Danson.

Tom was born and raised in Jacksonville, Fl. and loved to tell people he was a native Floridian and "proud of it." He graduated from the University of Florida where he met his future wife, Sophia, and became an avid Gator fan.

In addition to his over 50 years in the insurance business, he enjoyed over nineteen in sales and marketing with insurance carriers including The Hartford Insurance Group. He served on many local and state boards and in 1993 was awarded the Chairman's Award for Excellence by the Florida Chamber of Commerce. He was President of the Downtown Rotary Club, a board member of Goodwill Industries, and was involved in many other civic organizations. He always told us that his greatest accomplishment was loving his family.

Tom served four terms in the Florida House of Representatives, representing Sarasota and parts of Manatee County. He was named "Legislator of the Year" by several groups and was awarded the Allen Morris Award as "Most Effective in Debate" as voted by his colleagues in the House. In honor of his legislative service, the state flag will be flown at half-mast over the Capitol during his Celebration of Life.

How fortunate we have been to love and be loved by this man. He never failed to have a smile, a firm handshake, or a kind word for everyone – the eternal optimist who loved people, and never met a stranger. He was always ready to lend a hand when he saw the need. He made the world a better place simply by being in it.

"Rest well my love, you've done it well."

There will be a Celebration of Life service on Thursday, August 11, at 4:00pm at Toale Brothers Colonial Chapel, 40 Orange Ave., Sarasota, FL. Reception to follow at The Hyatt Boathouse.

In lieu of flowers, anyone who wishes may donate in his memory to Tidewell Hospice, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, Fl., 34238

Please share your memories of Tom with us at: toalebrothers.com

Tribute Wall

LW

“ I first met Tom in 1969 at age 22 when I started working for a CPA across the hall from his office in the 1900 Building. Since we still do his tax returns, I have seen him every year since (usually with his dog). He was always so funny and the most optimistic person I ever met. It's so sad to see him go, but I will always remember his kindness. My sympathies to Sophia, Tia, and Stephanie.

Lana Beth Willhoite - August 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ We first knew Tom as a neighbor, then quickly as a friend. Tom provided strong leadership to the Oak Court homeowner association for many years serving on the board and committee assignments. He was diligent, thoughtful, passionate, involved the neighbors and was goal oriented. Because we had different political views, we often exchanged friendly differing opinions. He often stopped to chat as he was leaving the property. We will miss his smile, firm handshake and friendship.

Bob Landry & Donald Kinghorn - August 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ I had the privilege of serving as a page in 1978 for Representative Danson, who many years later became a friend and someone I knew as "Tom." During my week in Tallahassee, I was stuffing a large pile of envelopes one day, when his office called to invite me to dine with him at the Capitol. No, I told them, I was not finished my work. Within five minutes, the page coordinator came into my workroom and told me that if my Representative wanted to take me to lunch, I needed to stop the stuffing for a an hour. As a youngster, Tom treated with respect and dignity. As an adult, any encounter with Tom was upbeat and uplifting. I will miss the twinkle in his eye and grin that spread across his entire face. My deepest sympathies to lovely Sophia and his children and grandchildren.

Cathy Layton - August 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Tom was a wonderful man, a great friend and mentor. Our friendship began many years ago and it was evident from the beginning the passion he had for life. I enjoyed the things we were able to do together from traveling to football games. He exemplified all of the qualities in an honorable man, kind, respectful, loyal and a friend to all. My deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends and all that love him with prayers that they may find peace and comfort during this difficult time. He left the world a better place and will be truly missed. Go Gators!

Scott Douglas Humphreville - August 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ I will miss him dearly. Not only was he my 2nd father, but he was my mentor, my friend and a beautiful person inside and out. He was a remarkable man with a wonderful work ethic. He loved people and never met a stranger. But, most of all, he loved his family and was and always will be a role model for all who knew him. My heart goes out to Sophia, Tia, Stephanie and Thomas is an irreplaceable human being.

Ellen Goldstein-Battin - August 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ With deep love for Tom and family.

Arturo and Susy Hoyo - August 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ A true family man. Always made a point to be with his children when they needed him the most. I remember his daughter Tia had a boxer name ruby that meant the world to Tia and when ruby pass away Mr and Mrs Danson knew Tia was heartbroken so they drove all the way to Albany, Ga. From Sarasota for Rubys funeral. He was a true gentleman to all that met him. Tom always had words of encouragement to make the day better. He will be miss by many.

Stephen Brimberry - August 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Representative Tom Danson (R) was agreeable, compatible ,congenial ,sympathetic, without discord or difficulty. His ability to work with both Republicans and Democrats for his District and State was magnanimous. He is missed. Rest in peace my good friend. Tom Woodruff, Former State Legislator.

Tom Woodruff, Former State Representative - August 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Our friendship began with the Dansons in 1965 and blossomed through the years. We watched Tom advance in his career in insurance and then moved onto politics. We soon became involved in his political campaigns by entertaining him with the "Dancing Danson Girls." I always looked forward to his attendance at Tiger Bay so that we could reminisce and share a few laughs together. I will miss my dear friend. My sympathies go out to Sophia, Tia, and Stephanie. May God Bless.

Barbara Pryor - August 06, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Sophia, Becky and I want to thank you for our chance to meet Tom and enjoy his beautiful smile and love for life. He was special and made our community a better place. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Elliott and Becky

Elliott Metcalfe - August 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ I am very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was a wonderful person, with great love for his family and everyone. We grew up as neighbors and then friends, he and my parents, and I went to school with Stephanie. Sending my condolences to Sophia, Tia and Stephanie at this difficult time.

Lisa Pryor Cece - August 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ We pray that sweet memories of the life & love you shared will sustain you in these difficult days and bring peace to your heart. The short times we spent with Tom through the years were always full of laughter and fun! We've always had his black-eyed peas recipe with Steph on New Year's Day - a wonderful tradition he gave us! He was a great man of honor and loyalty who lived & loved well. In sympathy & friendship, Evan & Karen Pardue.....GO GATORS!

Evan & Karen Pardue - August 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM