



## Thomas Dwight Reed

August 15, 2025

Thomas Dwight Reed passed away peacefully at the age of 83, surrounded by family in Sarasota, FL on August 15, 2025.

Born in 1942 in New York City, Tom spent most of his childhood in San Diego, CA where he began his lifelong passion for sports and sailing. Moving to Des Moines, IA, Tom attended Callanan Junior High and Roosevelt High School where he excelled at sports, playing both football and basketball. Tom went on to University of Kansas where he continued to play football and basketball and graduated with BA and MA in education. After a short teaching period in Wichita, KS, Tom returned to Des Moines to teach and coach at Roosevelt High School for the next thirty years. In 1995, he retired from teaching and moved to Siesta Key, FL with his wife Sally and stepdaughter Kelley.

Throughout his long career as a high school physical education teacher, high school swimming, tennis and football coach, age-group swim coach, and self-employed swimming instructor, Tom had a rich legacy of impacting the lives of children of all ages and the community of Des Moines. As a swim coach, he had many championship swimmers, a state championship team, and was ultimately inducted into the Iowa High School Swimming Coaches Hall of Fame.

In his retirement in Sarasota, Tom and Sally spent nearly 15 years

passionately running a charter sailing business aboard “Key Breeze”, a meticulously maintained 41-foot Morgan sloop. Tom enjoyed racing sailboats, ocean sailing journeys with family and friends, and made many long camping trips across the country, sightseeing, visiting national parks, and spending time with his children, grandchildren, friends and family.

Tom had a remarkable kinetic energy that kept him busy throughout his life, building big dreams, setting goals, and bringing those dreams into existence. Through his coaching, teaching, and mentoring, and by his own example of hard work and dedication, Tom inspired his children and grandchildren, and thousands of his students and athletes to achieve their own successes. He continually exemplified one of his favorite quips: “You’ve gotta do the gotta-dos before you do the wanna-dos”.

Tom’s biggest impact in life was on his family. He will be remembered as a supportive and loving father, a good listener with an excellent sense of humor, never at a loss for stories of experiences from his own life. As a grandfather, Tom was involved in his grandchildren’s lives, valuing one-on-one time with each of them, and enjoyed knowing them at each stage of their lives. As a husband, Tom was a wonderful partner in life to Sally, squeezing more into nearly 30 years of marriage than most experience in a lifetime.

Tom was preceded in death by his mother Edith Hind Reed, father James Dillingham, adopted father Henry Reed, son David Dillingham Reed and stepdaughter Kelley Rodriguez.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sally, sister Martha Lewis, his children James Reed and Megan Johnson, and stepchildren Dustin Johnson, Eric Templeton, Kirsten McGuire, and Megan Claypool. Tom is survived by seventeen wonderful grandchildren: Lainey, Beau, and Dane Johnson, Calvin Reed, Jack and Hattie Johnson, and George, Amelia (Millie), Frances, and

Luisa Rodriguez, Margaret and Erika Templeton, Joe and Cory McGuire, Kate, Finn and Henry Claypool.

Any charitable donations in Tom Reed's name can be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and Wounded Warrior Project.

# Tribute Wall

ST

*“ We're thinking of Tom and his family at this time. I will always be grateful to Tom for bringing me into the Roosevelt swim family. Tom was a good mentor for all aspects of coaching. The swim dinners at the Reed house were always fun and entertaining. Tom will always be remembered and missed.  
Steve and Marcia Teter*

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**Steve and Marcia Teter** - September 12, 2025 at 06:24 PM

JE

*“ Tom Reed was my swim & water polo coach, 1970-1972, at Roosevelt. He was my AAU swim coach, also. And, I played Sophomore football under Tom. What a guy! Big heart, great sense of humor. He worked us hard in the pool and inspired us in every swim meet, despite a win or a loss. Tom played football at TRHS with my brother, Tad Eller, a QB. He always spoke highly of my brother. We, my best friend, Rick Adrianse and I drive Tom nuts with our daily antics in and out of the pool. Tom will always be a wonderful touchstone in my life. Thank you, Tom, rest in peace.*

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**John Eller** - September 08, 2025 at 08:33 PM



*“ Tom Reed was my swim coach for Summer AAU youth and eventually my high school coach. Coach Reed and our depth led us to take State championship 1980. I was fast but lazy...bless him and his patience.*

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**Amy Roland** - September 07, 2025 at 01:12 PM

DM

“ Dear Sally, Martha, James, Megan, Dustin, Eric, Kirsten, Megan, and family:

*Betty and I wish to extend our most sincere condolences to each of you at the passing of a good friend and a marvelous teacher and coach, Tom Reed.*

*I had the distinct pleasure of being the principal at Theodore Roosevelt high school from 1994 through 2001. During that time I came to know and cherish Tom's commitment to the many students that he taught and coached at TR. To say that Tom had a profound influence on the lives of so many students and athletes at Roosevelt would be an understatement. He was well liked, handsome, funny, and admired by all of those who knew him. I was only a year older than Tom, but I remember him from my high school days at North whenever we played Roosevelt as he was an outstanding athlete and many of us on the basketball and football teams knew him well. Our thoughts and prayers will be with each of you in the days and months that lie ahead.*

*Dr. Larry & Betty Martindale*

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**Dr. Larry C. Martindale** - September 03, 2025 at 07:59 AM

DD

“ I remember him trying to teach us French... that was not easy, since we had to take a language.

*I do remember him being kind & fair!!!*

*Debora Dickinson*



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**Debora Dickinson** - August 30, 2025 at 04:57 PM

AS

“ Coach Reed I love them someone who kept me responsible who was there for me. One of the men I could always talk to after I lost my grandfather. One of the few people I would take direction from when I didn't wanna listen to nobody else at school. I appreciate you coach. Peace to you and your family blessings and prayers for peace in this time of transition in their loss.

A. Shade

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**A. Shade** - August 29, 2025 at 04:20 PM

CW

“ I was in Mr. Reed's homeroom one year at Roosevelt. I didn't have him for a class. Rest in Paradise! 🙏

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**Cissy Wong** - August 29, 2025 at 01:56 PM