



Thomas J. May

January 31, 1981 - April 14, 2020

AUBURN- Thomas J. May, 39, left this world peacefully on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 in Auburn with his family by his side.

Tom was born in Brunswick on January 31, 1981 and grew up enjoying sports at a young age. He excelled in hockey, soccer, and baseball participating in local youth programs with his brother, Travis. His family spent time together skiing at Sugarloaf and enjoyed many hike excursions in the Bigelow Range near the family ski camp. Special hikes with his Dad included Mt. Katahdin, the Presidential Range in N.H., and a winter snowshoe hike to the Bigelow hut at Avery Peak.

Tom was an avid reader. He absorbed every educational opportunity that he could. He graduated from North Yarmouth Academy Class of 1999 and was a 2003 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. Tom went on to receive his Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution at the University of Denver in 2005.

While in college, Tom worked summers at the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Otisfield- this is where he found his passion. The philosophy of combining sports at the grassroots level to resolve conflict was the basis of his thesis in the model of Olympic events.

The summer after finishing college, Tom worked at the Jerusalem Center for the Seeds of Peace to help organize the Playing for Peace basketball summer camp for young Israelis. Health problems hindered his abilities to pursue a career in the program and he began teaching locally at Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park. As his health continued to decline, Tom relocated to Auburn where he found opportunity to volunteer at the Boy's and Girl's Club. He was able to use his adaptive reading equipment with his progressive vision loss and wrote poetry and short stories. He won a contest sponsored by the Sun Journal to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Great Falls Balloon Festival- he and his Mom took a ride of their lives in a hot air balloon!

Tom's desire to participate in outdoor activities led him to the Maine Adaptive program. He was able to snowshoe in the winter and kayak and golf in the summer. He looked forward to spending time with the wonderful volunteers for the last few years right up to his final snowshoe event in February.

Despite the accolades of Tom's athletic abilities and his wonderful mind, Tom had a quiet

way about him. He felt his life on earth was about making others around him be the hero. Tom admired athletes who “assisted” in the glory of sport. His infectious smile and kind spirit are a legacy never to be forgotten.

Tom is survived by his father, William and his wife, Martha of Carrabasset Valley; his mother, Ann and her partner, Reginald Gammon of Auburn; his brother, Travis and his wife, Lynn of Saratoga, NY and their children niece, Chenery and nephew, Julian. Tom also leaves behind several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that were part of his journey. The family would like to thank the staff at d’Youville Pavilion who provided wonderful care for Tom in the last year. Beacon Hospice shared in his final days- thanks for the support in these trying times with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at www.lynchbrothers.com.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at a later date at St. Philips Church in Auburn. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to :Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation, 8 Sundance Lane, Newry, ME 04261. Arrangements by the Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home 305 Alfred A. Plourde Parkway in Lewiston, 784-4023.

Comments



“ RIP dearest Tom!



Mohamed Almashharawi - May 20, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ I am so sad to hear of Tom's passing. I remember Tommy so well from our time NYA; he was the most genuine, kind, thoughtful guy. He was respected by every single person in the school, and goodness and integrity just exuded from him. I am not surprised in the least to learn of all of the amazing work he did over the years and I feel lucky to have known him. My condolences to your family.

flora brown - May 01, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ I love you Tommy and I'll miss you. You were a truly special person. I feel blessed to call you my cousin. I'm thankful for all the time we spent together, especially when we were younger. You, me and Trav had a lot of fun times together. I love that picture of the three of us sitting on the porch together smiling when we were little kids. All my memories of you remind me how kind, competitive and joyful you were. I'll never forget you.
-Adam

Adam Desjardins - May 01, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ I am sad to hear of Tom's passing. I was at Seeds of Peace a couple summers with Tom and remember his kindness and passion. All my condolences to the family.

Alia Lahlou - April 22, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ I'm so, so sad to hear this news. I had the pleasure and honor of working with Tom at Seeds of Peace back in the early 2000s and he was such a positive, thoughtful and generous person. Just a lovely soul. Thoughts and prayers to you all.

Toby Berkman - April 21, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ I worked with Tom for one summer at Seeds of Peace Camp in Maine. His quiet enthusiasm endeared him to me, as well as to all his campers and fellow staff. Watching him and his co-counselors inspire their kids to run a 5k together was one of the highlights of the summer. His gentle spirit will be missed.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Dave Reckess - April 20, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ I met Tom at while we were both working as counselors at Seeds of Peace. He was a rare and beautiful combination of a gentle soul with a great passion for people and for sports.
I'm grateful for the opportunity to have known him and I am truly sorry for this great loss.
I send my condolences to his loved one and I'm sure his good work and legacy will continue to grow and spread joy in all the communities he was a part of.

Rona Harari - April 20, 2020 at 08:21 PM



“ Tom was a wonderful, kind person who touched many lives. I learned a lot from him during our time together at Seeds of Peace. He will be missed! Love to the family. May his memory be for a blessing.

Ben Losman - April 20, 2020 at 08:19 PM



“ I’m so sorry for the loss of your beloved Tom. My heart goes to all his loved ones with sorrow and love. I was lucky to meet Tom when I worked at Seeds of Peace starting in 2008, my first time ever at a summer camp or teaching sports. Tom was warm, patient, fair, kind, and present - the epitome of true sportsmanship. He treated all people at camp equally, as members of a team, no matter their background or gender or experience. I will remember this beautiful way he was.

lili m. - April 20, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ I remember Tom at Seeds Camp. He was always very quiet, but he was always very busy making sure the athletic events were on time and the fields were ready. RIP Tom

Skid Savage - April 20, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ I’m so sorry to hear of this loss from our Maine community. I worked with Tom when he was at Seeds and he was always a kind soul that showed compassion to everyone.

Lisa Quatrale - April 20, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ I only overlapped with Tom one summer at Seeds of Peace. In that time, I gained a tremendous amount of respect for him. His character was exemplary and there was never any question of Tom's commitment to helping others. His passion for sports and teaching sports was evident and I know he impacted so many lives at Seeds of Peace and I am sure that carried over to his other endeavors. I send my condolences and may his memory inspire us all to continue the work of helping others.

Sandy Hartwiger - April 20, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ I am so sad to learn of Tom’s passing and send my deepest and most sincere condolences to his family. I had the privilege of meeting and working with Tom when I was a new counselor at Seeds of Peace in 2011, Tom’s last summer there. Tom brought an enthusiasm, sense of purpose, and professionalism to his work at Seeds that served as a model for me as I worked to find my way as a new counselor. I remain grateful to him for that. Please accept my heartfelt wishes for peace and comfort, and that Tom’s memory will be a blessing for his family and all of us whose lives he touched.

Ron Garber - April 20, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ Tom and I worked together at the Seeds of Peace summer camp for many summers. He was always extremely kind, hard working, and clearly devoted to supporting our campers gain meaningful skills and access their potential. I will remember him very fondly.



Aaron Shneyer - April 20, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ I had the privilege of meeting Tom, back in 2005 when he was traveling in the Middle East and running programs for Seeds of Peace. Later on, in 2007, we were part of the same camp staff. Tom and I taught street hockey together. He was a generous and patient instructor and an avid lover of sports. He was humble, devoted and supportive. I will miss him gratefully.

Eldad Levy - April 20, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ Tom was full of humility and care. It was a joy to work with Tom at Seeds of Peace and reconnect with him while we worked at Nature's Classroom. You and Tom are all in my thoughts.

Matt Spearing - April 20, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. May Tom's soul rest in peace and may the love that everyone feels for him helps the family through their grief. Love and prayers.

Aneeta Nagi - April 20, 2020 at 03:19 PM



“ Tom was my table counsellor one of the years I attended camp. He was full of life and hope. He brought joys and happiness to the table. I can't believe he is gone and my deepest condolences are with his family and loved ones. May he rests in peace. He will be in our hearts forever.



Sana Kardar - April 20, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ This must be from SOP?
Thank you for sharing your kind memory.

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:21 PM



“ I remember him being very sweet, kind and funny as we walked down the aisle together at Travis and Lynn's wedding. My condolences to his family I their time of need.



Kirsten Decker - April 19, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ Dear Ann, Bill, Travis and Families,

We are so saddened to read of Tom's passing. He was such a talented and special young man. Happy memories of Tom's visit in Florida with "Grampy" and us will always be with us. Our thoughts are with all of you. We share your sorrow.

~ Bobbie, Robin and Family

Bobbie & Robin Rasch - April 19, 2020 at 12:42 PM



“ Thanks Bobbie...I remember when Tom visited you and Grampy. He was on spring break from NYA and also enjoyed a preseason baseball game. Thanks for being part of Tom's life. You and Robin stay safe.

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ Thank you Bobbie and Robin for your thoughts I appreciate them very much.

Bill May - April 21, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ Dear Ann and Family,

I am so sorry for the loss of your dear Tom. May precious memories fill your heart and ease your pain during these most difficult times. You are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

Sincerely, Carmen Haggerty

Carmen Haggerty - April 18, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ Thank you Carmen.

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ Ann & Family, So very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. My heart aches for you. Prayers and hugs. Brenda Arnall

Brenda Arnall - April 17, 2020 at 07:41 PM



“ Appreciate your prayers, Brenda.

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ Ann,
I will never forget the love I saw between you and Tom. It was a pleasure to get to know you both. Tom was a special young man and you are the kind of mom that I strive to be. Praying for you and your family. Be blessed!!
Nancy Whittier

Nancy Whittier - April 17, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ Nancy, we so missed you! Helping Tom with his hearing loss, well, you were a godsend. So glad to have you in our lives...appreciate your kind thoughts. All the best in your new home.

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ Dear Ann and Dad,
We are so very sorry about Tom's passing. He will be truly missed. May you find comfort in your sweet memories of him during this time of grief. We love you, Angela, Kaitlyn, Connor, Mariah, and Theo OXOXOXOX



Angela - April 17, 2020 at 12:27 PM



“ Thanks Angela. Love you guys, too.

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:42 PM



“ Bill: Please accept our deepest condolences on Tom's passing. It has been a long time since we were last in contact but we still remember watching him sail across the ice at Bowdoin with Midcoast Youth Hockey. His passing really hits home for us because he was just about 6 months older than our first son and was a brother from Notre Dame. In reading about his all too short life it is clear that he lived the spirit of Our Lady's University by serving others. I'm sure he is now at peace in the arms our Blessed Mother. We'll keep him and you in our prayers. Jim and Sally DeMartini

Jim DeMartini - April 17, 2020 at 11:38 AM



“ Jim, thanks for your sharing your memories of Tom. I remember you worked with his Dad. Tom took his last breath after I recited the Hail Mary...yes, he is now with his heavenly mother!

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:41 PM



“ Thank you Jim, Tom loved his time at ND. His favorite Bruins player was Dave Poulian who became the hockey coach at ND

Bill May - April 21, 2020 at 06:03 PM



“ You were always a gentleman, Tom. I have such great memories, especially of our vacations at Frye Island. Rest In Peace. Love, Prisca

Prisca Thomson - April 17, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ I was just looking at Tom's NYA yearbook...he featured your family on his senior page. Bittersweet...

Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:38 PM



“ Thank you Prisca, those were great times for our families

Bill May - April 21, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ Dear Ann, Reggie, Bill, Martha, Travis and Lynn,
Words cannot express our deep sympathy and sorrow over Tom's passing. Tommy was a bright, shining light in our family and he will be missed by all. Tommy was a sweet, gentle, loving, talented soul loved by all who knew him. We can't imagine imagine the depth of your heartbreak and sorrow. You were a wonderful mom, dad, and brother to Tom, always supporting and loving him throughout his life. We pray that in time, your heartbreak will ease and you will only have wonderful memories of our sweet Tommy.
With much love,
Aunt Joanne and Uncle John

Joanne Olson - April 16, 2020 at 09:55 PM



“ Joanne and John, Yes, Tom will be missed...in our hearts forever! Thanks for your kind thoughts.
Ann

Ann May - April 17, 2020 at 09:26 AM



“ Dear Ann and Family,
So saddened to read of Tom's passing. Watching him grow up with Travis and all the cousins in your folks pool . The way your eyes would light up when ever you talked about him showed your love and pride in him.
God Bless You my friend.

Sue Powers and Family.

Sue Powers - April 17, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ Hi Sue, Tom is finally at Peace. I'm sure Nana and Pepere were there to welcome him!
Ann May - April 20, 2020 at 03:45 PM



“ What an honest and loyal person you were Tom!!!! You never said a mean thing to or about anyone. I love you bro and will miss you everyday!!!!

travis may - April 16, 2020 at 08:54 PM