



## Thomas E. Radolinski

November 20, 1937 - August 1, 2023

Thomas E. Radolinski, 85, passed away on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Thomas was the beloved husband of 62 years to Frances Leneve. Honorary father to Debbie. Loving father to Kenneth, Leneve, Janet, Steven, Vicki and Lauren. Devoted grandfather to Steven, Kenny, Richie, Casey, Stephanie, Braeden and Ava. Cherished great grandfather to Mia, Zoe, Dylan, and Evelyn. Thomas was also loved and affectionately known to many as BAPA.

Tom grew up in Brooklyn, attended Dewey Junior High, Boys High School and earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at Brooklyn College. He began his teaching career at McKinley Junior High School in Brooklyn. The majority of his career was spent teaching Health, Physical Education and Swimming at Curtis High School on Staten Island, where he was also a Swim Coach. He spent summers as a lifeguard at Coney Island Beach, where he met his wife, and also helped organize the Lifeguard Union. Four of his children followed in his footsteps and became a part of that union.

During his adventurous life he was an altar boy, farm hand, horse trainer, harness driver, "animal whisperer" and "human atlas". He was also an all-around handyman who wore many hats as a mechanic, electrician, plumber and carpenter. As his first grandson would often say, "Bapa bick-its" (Bapa will

fix it!) Most of all, Tom was a dedicated family man - selfless, strong, practical, logical, creative, reliable, intelligent, sensible, skillful, supportive, funny and fun-loving - a big kid himself at heart! He was the real deal and one killer story teller!

The family will receive friends from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station), Staten Island, New York.

A Prayer Service will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, Tom "BAPA" would greatly appreciate you wisely spend your money on your loved ones.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **10**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)  
Staten Island, NY 10312

## Service

AUG **10**. 6:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)  
Staten Island, NY 10312

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas E. Radolinski*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Radolinski.*



August 09, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Radolinski.*



August 07, 2023 at 07:19 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Radolinski.*



August 06, 2023 at 12:14 PM

PH

“ I attended Curtis High School from 1961 to 1965. I had Mr. Radolinski as my swim team coach for all of those years. I was not the best swimmer but I was the best God made me to be. I joined the team swimming the backstroke. I noticed that our team did not have any swimmer in the 400 yard freestyle. In my freshman year I said I can swim that distance. I had done a lot of distance swimming at Boy Scout Camp. Coach said “show me”. He jumped into the pool with me and we both swam back and forth the length of the pool until we did 400 yards. After that, I swam both backstroke and the 400 yard distance event. He motivated me not only to swim that distance but to swim it fast and faster so our team could win the race. He filled me with pride when my race times got better and better. My Curtis block C letter in swimming is the proudest accomplishment of mine from my four years at Curtis. After I graduated I went to college. Then the United States Marine Corps. My Marine Corps boot camp and later Marine Corps OCS was filled with memories of him whispering to me to excel. I hope my reflections on Coach Radolinski will give comfort and support to his family. He was a kind, humble and saintly man. He strove to motivate his team. He always had a smile. Even when I would lose a race he still smiled at me and said “Good Job Peter” . Rest In Peace Coach. As the Apostle Paul would put it Coach You have run and Swam the Race. The Victory Crown awaits you in Heaven.

Peter A. Hagab - August 06, 2023 at 11:16 AM



Peter, many thanks from the entire family! This is beautiful. To know my Dad had such a profound impact on other lives is amazing! ❤️

Vic Rad - August 07, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Radolinski.*



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August 05, 2023 at 04:07 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Radolinski.*



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August 05, 2023 at 11:26 AM



“ *41 years ago I had the privilege to move on a avenue called Figurea. Never ever knowing what it would become. I try to explain to people what this neighborhood is like and no one can truly understand. We are family and we are there for each other. Bapa was like a father figure to me even though he wasn't much older than I am. I called him whenever I had a problem. I trusted what he said and always listened carefully because there was always a lesson to be learned. He was funny, loving, caring and someone everyone would be lucky to have in their family. My family hit the jackpot because he took us right in and made us a part of his family. We were truly blessed. Thank you Bapa for making us feel special. it meant more to us then you could ever know. We love you and will miss you everyday. ❤️❤️❤️👍*

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**Mary** - August 04, 2023 at 08:37 PM



❤❤❤ Thank you for sharing!

Vic Rad - August 05, 2023 at 09:50 AM

KR

“ To all those who loved BaPa as an actual blood relative I want to say thank you so much. Thank you for sharing this wonderfully kind, funny, special man with us. For 30 plus years I have loved Bapa as if he was my own grandfather and felt so incredibly lucky at the privilege of that title of “granddaughter”(he never made me feel like anything less than that). Whether I was part of making fun of his snoring, to when he actually fell (partially) through the attic into the living room, to pulling quarters from behind ears, to jokes that were Ridiculous and hysterical as the same time, to that time he tried to get a bird out of our house. From the outside looking in there was never a question as to the level of love he had for his family. It made an outsider want to be an insider. I distinctly remember how cautious he was when I started coming over for the first time around Buster. He was so concerned and I think (maybe subconsciously) I started thinking of him as a great protector just around that time. He always made me laugh, smile, and feel like I was one of his own.

*I was so incredibly lucky to have a blood related grandfather who loved me so much. But I also had a grandfather who loved me by luck of geography and I couldn't be more proud to call him mine.*

*I am so incredibly sorry for the loss of all who loved him dearly and who leant him out to us Figurea stragglers as they saw fit. I will miss him terribly.*

*I love you all. And thank you. Thank you. Thank you. There aren't enough thank yous I can say to cover what he meant to me.*

Katie Rudolph - August 04, 2023 at 05:21 PM



*Beautiful... Thank you so very much for sharing! ❤️*

**Vic Rad** - August 04, 2023 at 07:45 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Radolinski.*



August 04, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ *I am so sorry I just saw this my heart is broken for all of you please except my condolences 🌸*

**Ann Lufrano** - August 03, 2023 at 07:57 AM



*Thank you. ❤️*

**Vic Rad** - August 04, 2023 at 07:46 PM