



Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr.

February 6, 1933 - October 2, 2025

Thomas Paul Dembeck, Jr., of Sterling Heights, passed away peacefully on October 2, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones. He was 92 years old.

Born on February 6, 1933, in Detroit, MI, Tom was the beloved son of the late Thomas and Gertrude (née Koss) Dembeck. He grew up in Detroit, graduated from St. Anthony High School in 1951, proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Hancock (CVA-19), and later retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

Faith was at the center of Tom's life. A devoted Catholic, he was a member of St. Matthias Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus at both St. Lawrence and St. Matthias. He faithfully attended Eucharistic Adoration-often taking the 2 a.m. shift-and held a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, and praying the Rosary.

Tom was known for his unwavering work ethic. His motto was simple: "If you said you were going to do something, you show up every day and do it well." From a young age, he took on odd jobs to help his family and worked as a caddy at Plum Hollow Country Club. During his Navy service, he seized every opportunity to learn, working as a bus driver, chef, butcher, carpenter, and welder. While raising his young family of five children, he juggled multiple jobs, including postal worker, office cleaner, car mechanic at Utica Collision, welder at Utica Steel, glass cutter, and material buyer. Later in life, Tom and his son, Tommy, founded Dembeck Plumbing, where they enjoyed many years of serving their community.

On June 21, 1958, Tom married the love of his life, Virginia (née Domzal), at St. Jude Catholic Church. Together, they built a beautiful family. He was the proud father of Debbie Peterson, Lora (the late Mike) Adam, Julie (Mike) Kelvin, and Tony (Carolyn) Dembeck; cherished grandfather of Elizabeth (Leo) Barnes, Alicia Dembeck, Nolan Peterson, Michael (Tiffeny) Kelvin, Spencer Adam, Timothy (Aly) Kelvin, Christina (Zack) Jones, Paul Dembeck, Lucy Dembeck, and Calvin Adam; and great-grandfather to Connor Barnes and Michael Axel Kelvin. He is also survived by his brother, Ralph Dembeck, sister-in-law, Helen "Coco" Dembeck, Susan Domzal, brother-in-law Michael Barkume, James (Paulette) Domzal, and his daughter-in-law Renee. Loving Uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Tom will be remembered for his kind spirit, generosity, humor, and love of storytelling. He had a passion for deer hunting, a notorious sweet tooth- especially for honey nougats, ice cream, and Mallow Cups- and a talent for bringing joy to others. Known affectionately as "Mr. D" or the "Donut King," he delighted in creating things from nothing, whether fixing, building, or crafting handmade signs for birthdays, anniversaries, and family celebrations. Above all, family was most important to him.

He was preceded in death by his son, Thomas Dembeck; son-in-law, Michael Adam; brothers Donald (Carrie) Dembeck, Alfred Dembeck; sister Marion (Donald) Sicklesteel and sister-in-law Judy Dembeck; his parents, Thomas and Gertrude, brother-in-law Michael (Ellen) Domzal, Thomas Domzal and sister-in-law Dolores (née Domzal) Barkume.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Tom's life on Friday, October 10, 2025, from 2 - 8 p.m. at William Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road, Utica, MI 48317, with a Prayer Service at 5:00 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Matthias Catholic Church, 12311 19 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48313, with visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m. Burial will take place at a later date at the Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly, Michigan.

Tom's life was truly a gift to all who knew him, and his memory will remain in

our hearts forever. To our beloved husband, dad, and grandfather, you were always looking good.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Capuchins or the Father Solanus Casey Center.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **10**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Prayer Service

OCT **10**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Instate At Church

OCT **11**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Matthias Catholic Church
12311 19 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Funeral Mass

OCT 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Matthias Catholic Church
12311 19 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Tribute Wall



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr..*



October 10, 2025 at 10:50 AM



“ *I will always admire Uncle Tom for his faith, fatherhood, and marriage. For that he is a role model for all of those that were fortunate to know him and that is how he'll always be with us in our hearts.*

Our sincere love and prayers,

John, Ann Marie, JJ, and Matthew Sicklesteel

John Sicklesteel - October 10, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ *John, AnnMarie, JJ & Matthew Sicklesteel purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr..*



John, AnnMarie, JJ & Matthew Sicklesteel - October 10, 2025 at 09:19 AM



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

October 10, 2025 at 07:59 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr..



October 10, 2025 at 07:59 AM



“ Grew up living next door to Mr. Dembeck, he was one of those neighborhood dads back in the days when people looked out for each others kids, I have known him my entire life. I feel like I've lost my father again. What a wonderful husband and father he was, who raised a truly beautiful family! I will really miss you Mr. D, rest easy now, all will be well.

Tamara Anderson - October 09, 2025 at 05:48 PM



“ Tammy Anderson and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr..



Tammy Anderson and Family - October 09, 2025 at 05:35 PM

BC

“ On behalf of the Capuchin friars, I offer condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Dembeck. I pray that Thomas will rest in peace, and that God's mercy will console all those who mourn his death. Tom and Virginia are long-time supporters of the Capuchins for which we are grateful.



Br. Brenton Ertel OFM, Capuchin - October 09, 2025 at 10:26 AM

WD

“ Walter D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr..

Walter D. - October 09, 2025 at 10:03 AM

HK

“ Heather & Braden Klish purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr..



Heather & Braden Klish - October 08, 2025 at 07:24 PM

DM

“ Tom Dembeck has always been one of my favorite people, even though I had not seen him in well over 50 years. As a young person, starting my very first real job as a letter carrier at the Sterling Heights Post Office (on 15 Mile Rd), Tom was one of the first people I relied on to teach me how to do my job well. Always supportive, with a wonderful sense of humor. I have great memories of that time and the people there - Tom, Bill, Leroy and so many others. I know that Tom will be missed. Darlene DeVriendt McKinney

Darlene McKinney - October 08, 2025 at 03:26 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Paul Dembeck Jr..



October 08, 2025 at 11:50 AM

AL

“ Mr. Dembeck was one of the great neighborhood dads. A great mentor, a rock-solid guy, and the epitome of a friendly neighbor who'd give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. I remember a funny story he told me once about watching my dad driving down Donley Dr. drinking a cup of coffee while driving. This was before anyone drank coffee in their cars, apparently. He told me that he wondered why my dad didn't just drink his coffee at home before he left for work!

We have pictures of my parents on a trip to Niagara Falls with Tom and Virginia, so they were close back in the 60s... when neighbors were friends, and everybody looked out for each other's kids. Rest In Peace, Mr. Dembeck. You were a great guy, and a great American.

Andrew Lark - October 07, 2025 at 02:00 PM