



## Thomas Donald Mather

July 7, 1937 - October 22, 2011

Thomas Donald Mather, age 74, of Royal Oak, died Saturday, October 22, 2011 at his home. Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 7, 1937 to the late Julian and Elizabeth Mather. He was a 1955 graduate of Lincoln High School in Ferndale. From 1958 to 1963 Tom was a police officer in Pleasant Ridge. He later became an insurance industry executive devoting almost 50 years of his life as an advocate for free market solutions to injury/illness prevention and health care management. He was President and Chief Operations Officer of CoreSource Inc., President and Chairman of the Self-Insurance Institute of America, President of Self-Insurance Publishing Corporation and Managing Editor of the "Self-Insurer" a leading insurance industry journal. He was a gifted writer, painter, chef, author of several books and a connoisseur of fine cuisine, drink and Jazz music. Most of all, Tom loved life and the people he surrounded himself with. He was a great teacher, mentor and friend to all who knew him. He was often heard quoting an old jazzman and friend "Life is short, talk is cheap, let the good times roll". He lived by that creed. Tom is survived by his best friend and wife of 55 years, Joanne; children, Kevin Sue Mather, Jeffrey Sandra Mather and Anne-Marie Mathew Sosnoski; grandchildren, Erin and Kathleen Mather; Sean Stephanie, Ryan and Ian Mather; Lyndsey, Lauren, Emily and Marek Sosnoski; and sisters, Betty Riordan and Marie Humphrey and their extended families. The visitation will be held Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 2-8 p.m. and the funeral service Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 10 a.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral

Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road 4 blks. E of Woodward, Royal Oak. The burial will take place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 25800 W 10 Mile Road, Southfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, Operation Smile or Disabled American Veterans. Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Tribute Wall

AA

“ I am so very sorry to see the passing of a wonderful human being and friend. My heart goes out to Joanne. I will keep Tom in my prayers.

Arthur Ambrozewski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Tom was a good friend and a very special person - kind, empathetic, knowledgeable and understanding. I'm glad I knew him and his family. He was an inspiration to me on how to keep life interesting, fun and challenging.

Jim & Margaret Kammerer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Joanne and family, Tom was one of my earliest friends and mentors shortly after ERISA became law and most of us were new in the self-funded arena. Tom's support and teaching were consistent, clear and kind. It was the kind of education and support that all students seek in a teacher and friend.

Ernie Clevneger - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Kevin, Sue, and Family, We are so sorry for your loss. There's an old Irish saying that we say in my family "May God hold you in his palm forever". Our condolences... Pete, Caryl, Rachel, & Michael Patrick..

Cary and Peter Dazer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CD

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**Cary and Peter Dazer** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Mather Family I am deeply sorry for your loss. I have so many fond memories of Tom and my years at CRMC/CoreSource. I always remember Tom being a smiling and happy soul and a shoulder I could depend on. Working there was such a growth experience and Tom was a big part of that. He also made our parties and Irish Mist trips very memorable. I feel very fortunate to have known him. He will truly be missed.

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**Cheryl Snell** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Please accept my condolences on the passing of Tom. He was instrumental in hiring me after college at CRMC. I always appreciated his wisdom and kindness both personally and professionally. My thoughts and prayers are with the Mather family during this time.

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**Michael Shultz** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Joanne, I'm so sorry for your loss. I met Tom in 1992 when I started working for the SIIA. We kept in touch even after I left in 2006 and we would send each other CD's he sent me jazz; I sent him Spanish guitar music; I would get pictures of his backyard every snowfall and every spring; he advised me on the best wines for gifts. Tom always encouraged me personally & professionally; he called me "kid". I could ask his advice on anything it it was always right on! I will miss you Tom.

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**Dianne Hull** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I started at CRMC in 1987. We were all scared of everyone who "sat upstairs" but Mr. Mather was the warmest, down to earth person. He kept insisting I call him Tom but I was raised a good Catholic girl who addressed her elders by "Mr". I remember fondly "celebrating" with him on the Irish Mist & in Mr. Duff's basement after our legendary Managers Meetings. Our Christmas parties at the GPYC were also memorable. He really did enjoy his libations. He was a class act. Another Angel has entered into Heaven. My sympathy goes out to Joanne & his family.

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**Lisa Wisniewski Sey** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Dear Joanne, Jeff, et al So sorry for your loss. Tom was a wonderful person, and I feel privileged to have known him. He always made me feel welcome and taught me much about patience and perseverance. I never knew us to have anything but good times together. Here's to you, Tom! I will miss your good humor, good sense and good stories.

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**Curtis Donley** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I am very sorry to hear about Tom’s passing. He was my mentor who taught me a lot and even though, we hadn’t seen each other in a very long time, I thought of him often and all the fun we had. In fact, I was just in my 20’s when I started to work with him. I will never forget my 1st ever trip to the UP. We were in Duff’s brand new black caddy when we made our appearance in Newberry, MI. Obviously, we caused a stir. First, he told me we couldn’t go to the Tahquamenon Falls because they were shut off for the night!! Then, when we arrived at the Newberry Inn and I asked about the signs that said a shower cost \$1.00, he told me that I had to pay that to take a shower which is shared by others. I was mortified and he laughed his you know what off while telling me the truth. Then he told me that I had to give a speech the next day. I was scared to death but he helped me get through it. My condolences to the family who he truly adored. Rest in peace.

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**Cheryl Chapman** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Another star will shine brightly in the evening sky....Such a wonderful neighbor and friend. His twinkling Irish eyes and generous spirit will be greatly missed, but never forgotten. Slainte Tom, until we meet again.

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**Tim and Georgeann Griffin** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Joanne and Family Tom was the greatest guy ever, I have so many fond memories of all the years we worked together at CRMC/Coresource. The work trips and especially the "Irish Mist" trips he was always trying to find my hidden stash of beer. He was a great friend and mentor, we will miss his always positive stories. The Weyhing Family

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**Jim Weyhing** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Pat & I send our deepest sympathies for your entire family. Tom was a good friend and business associate. Our prayers are with you at this time.

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**Steve & Pat Stucky** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Tom was such a wonderful man. I have so many great memories from my days at CRMC. He truly was one of a kind! My condolences to his family.

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**Marcia BurnsMacDonald** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ Sue - My thoughts and prayers with you and your family.

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**Tina Van Valkenburg** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I have in hand Tom's book, "Meetings of a Lifetime" that summarized many of the famous and not-so-famous people who drew Tom's interest. He ended the book unknowingly with his own epitaph: "The main issue that we started out to accomplish is that life iteself is an adventure, filled with meaningful chances to meet and greet others in this life as we move forward." Move forward, Tom.

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**Dave Kirby** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Tom&I shared many great adventures both in business and in life. He lived life on his own terms& enjoyed it all the way. Caroline & I remember fondly the many trips around the Country & cruises on the Irish Mistsshared with Joanne & Tom. An Era has passed! Our condolences to the Mather family. The Duff Family

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**James Duff** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I was so shocked and sad to hear of Tom's passing. He was, as is Joanne, such an important part of my parent's lives and in turn, mine. My parents always looked forward to their dinners together, and their birthday trips to Frankenmuth. And they always knew when they could find them at Jimmy's! My father considered Tom his best friend. Even with all Tom was going through last spring, he and Joanne made their way up to the 6th floor at Beaumont to see my dad--I will never forget that. I will miss his stories, and his laugh~it was the best.

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**Lauren King Seng** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Tom will be missed by all who ever knew him.I learned a great deal from Tom during the time I worked for him and with him. He always was quick to offer encouragement or a different perspective on life,work and happiness. My condolences to all family and friends.God speed my friend.

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**Tom Dugan** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Tom certainly will be missed, such a genuine and caring person he was and will always be remembered. Having known Tom for so many years has been a real pleasure he was always there anytime anyone needed him. He shall truly be missed but never forgotten and shall always be loved. Jim

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**Jim Kinder** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ Aunt Joanne, Kevin, Jeff, Anne Marie, I am so sorry to hear about Uncle Tom. I am hurting also. Even thou I was not there much in the last few years he was always in my thoughts. The time I spent with him and you all was always so special. Life seems so short. When we got together it was always the best of times. I have so many memories of time spent with the families from very young, up north at the cabin, and each others homes. Good times! I miss those days.. Tom was always more than just an uncle, he was a huge parts of my makeup, whether he new that or not. He will be missed. But he is going to a better place. My prayers are with you all... I will see you soon. Love Greg

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**Greg Logan** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dear Joanne and Family, Your loss is a great one. I only wish I was in Michigan at this time to personally express my sorrow and share stories of how much Tom meant to me and the people we worked with for so many years. I feel lucky to have shared good times, good food and wine and the love of music with Tom. He touched so many lives in a positive way, and his memory and spirit will live on through us lucky ones.

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**Lisabeth Schoebel** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Tom was a colleague, mentor and educator in the ways of the business world for me when I was at Creative Risk Mgmt. Corp. Tom helped me to realize the value not only of essential efforts in best practices but also to enjoy the success and celebrate life. Tom introduced me to fine wine and fine dining. A practice in which I still engage, have passed onto others and am forever grateful for Tom's zest for living. His advise on Barolo wine I still use as a benchmark - never buy Barolo aged less than 10 years. It may have cost me the respect of an Italian waiter in Ne, Italy last year but the Barolo I insisted on was spectacular. Tom - God's speed and love.

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**Rob Long** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Dear Aunt Joanne, Kevin, Jeff, Ann-Marie and families, On behalf of my Mom, Sisters and their families, know we share your grief in the loss of a beloved Brother, Uncle and friend. "Tommy".. "Uncle Tom".. you'll be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. With Love, Dave Riordan Jr. and Family

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**Dave Riordan Jr.** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Joanne and family: Tom was such a "bigger than life" character..it's hard to imagine. We've so enjoyed his friendship, his welcoming smile and his role as the perfect host and lovely "teller of tales"...he was one-of-a-kind. Don't hesitate to let us know what we can do!

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**Ellen and Bob Doster** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Kevin, So sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

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**Jim Russell** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM