

## Thomas Dwight Russell

April 12, 1947 - February 9, 2024

Thomas Dwight Russell Sr, 76, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, February 9, 2024. Tom was born on April 12, 1947, in Milwaukee Wisconsin to the late Melvin and Wilma Russell.

Tom was a Christian and a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. Tom had a larger-than-life personality, with a good heart and a great sense of humor. He deeply loved his wife and family, being a strong man and mentor to all.

Tom is survived by his wife, Bonnie; children, Denise (Russell) and Scott Herkimer, Tom Jr and Rebecca Russell; brother, Melvin Russell Jr and wife, Karen. Tom has six grandchildren: Nick Herkimer, Jonathan Herkimer, Regan Russell, Riley Russell, Jack Russell, and Anderson Russell.

Tom will be greatly missed each and every day by those who love and hold him dearly.

In respect of Tom's wishes a private Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society  
1901 Brunswick Ave #100, Charlotte, NC 28207 [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville is proudly serving the Russell family.

# Tribute Wall

FB

“ I was fortunate to have met Tom, while working with Bonnie at GM. After noticing Tom's keen insight of the car business and dry sense of humor, I liked him immediately. It was an honor to have met him.

*Frank Burns*

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**Frank Burns** - February 18, 2024 at 09:05 PM

IP

“ I enjoyed the few times I was able to spend some time with Tom. You could tell he was a special person. Bonnie and family, I am sorry for your loss. Through the Mercy of God may his Soul Rest in Peace, Amen.

*Ivil Porter*

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**IVIL L PORTER** - February 16, 2024 at 09:31 AM

RB

“ To one of the all time best!  
Job well done!

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**Robert Benedict** - February 15, 2024 at 09:03 PM

TG

“ Tom Russell was my friend. He had a rare sense of humor and timing. He could defuse tense situations with a quick joke and a kind word, and he displayed a quiet type of leadership which is still a rarity today. In 26 years at GM, he was the single best supervisor I saw, ready to defend and stand up for his people. He and Bonnie found much deserved happiness in each other.

*Semper Fi and rest in peace,*

*Tom Geist*

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**Tom Geist** - February 13, 2024 at 02:53 PM

PF

“ *Deepest condolences to the entire Family from Capital Chevrolet*

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**Pablo Figueroa** - February 13, 2024 at 01:55 PM

KO

“ *So Sorry for your loss Bonnie and family. Tom will definitely be missed. Too many good times were had with him while working at GM. He was a mentor to a lot of us when we started at GM. I always share Tom's story of when he meet Ross Perot. Ross had given Tom his card and said anything you ever need in IT give me a call. Well something happened with the Oldsmobile call center. Tom called Mr Perot. Problem was fixed within the next couple of hours. Next morning a meeting was scheduled with mgt and Tom. They had to tell Tom to never do something like that ever again. Now if you really knew Tom, you are smiling because you can see him solving the problem. You will be missed Tom.*

*KevinO'Brien*

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**Kevin O'Brien** - February 13, 2024 at 01:06 PM

BC

“ I'm so sorry to hear this. I've known Tom for 47 years when he was first introduced as my Oldsmobile service rep in S. FL while I was working at a local Olds dealer. We worked together when he traveled to where I was headquartered in DC. He showed me around town when I transferred to Lansing and then again when I came into Brand Quality.  
A very fun and caring man.

Brian Combs - February 13, 2024 at 11:16 AM

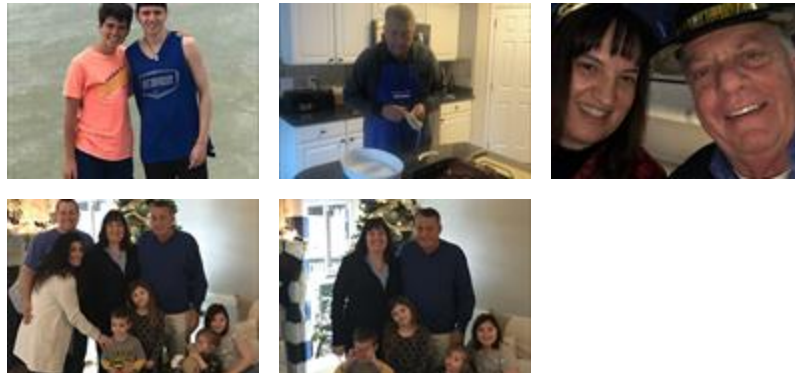
PH

“ With heartfelt condolences my thoughts and prayers are with the Russell family. May Tom's loving memories bring you strength and comfort during this difficult time. Praying for your peace and comfort. Pam Hines

Pam Hines - February 13, 2024 at 11:10 AM

DH

“ 25 files added to the tribute wall



Denise Herkimer - February 12, 2024 at 11:33 AM

MM

“ Tom was a great man. I had the privilege to talk with Tom on many occasions while working with Bonnie. Tom was a very smart man who gave great advice. Once you got through his tough exterior and deep voice you would also get his sense of humor. To me, Tom was one of the last true cowboys. He was tougher than nails, he was a true person and he had a big heart. It was an honor to know you, you will never be forgotten. RIP Tom

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**Mike Miloni** - February 12, 2024 at 09:51 AM

BR

“ And so, the journey is complete. Cancer took away many things from us, but what it could not take away was our love, commitment to each other, and our memories. You were an amazing, wonderful man and in the words of one of your favorite songs "I had the time of my life".

Your Wife,

Bonnie

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**Bonnie Russell** - February 11, 2024 at 01:59 PM

TR

Dad,  
You were the definition of tough. You never stopped fighting. I know you hated people focusing on you or worrying about you but wow I will miss you. I've never cared what the world thought of me but I always cared what you thought. I always wanted your advice and opinion. I am really gonna miss that. The fight is done. The race is finished. You won with your head held high. Love you dad.

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**Tom Russell** - February 11, 2024 at 02:59 PM

TH

*It was indeed an honor to know Tom. A tree of a man with a heart of gold. Tom always made me laugh, and was always eager to share bits of his wisdom and experience.*

*He spoke with pride of his children and grandchildren, and it was clear that he adored Bonnie. I am so glad that they had such a beautiful marriage and that Bonnie was with him to take care of him. She advocated for him through his treatments and did such a wonderful job of helping him transition peacefully in a place of love and care.*

*I will miss you, Tom. I will miss your smile, your wit, and just thinking about your laugh will always make me smile.*

*You were such a good husband to Bonnie. I know that she will carry the beautiful memories of your marriage with her for the rest of her days.*

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**Tracy Haynes** - February 12, 2024 at 10:01 AM

DH

*Dad I am so proud of you and how hard you fought this terrible cancer. I am thankful for your guidance, your support and your unwavering love. I am deeply grateful for the time I got to spend with you, the laughter we shared, and for the life lessons you passed on to me. You were a remarkable man and you will be dearly missed. I will try to honor you Dad by living a life that makes you proud. Thank you for loving me and for giving me a great childhood. I hope you lived the life you wanted to have and that you have no regrets. It was the greatest honor of my life to spend the last 4 days of your life caring for you and being with you as you stepped into eternity. Our father daughter dance song was Celine Dion "Because you loved me". and in the end I was your strength when you were weak, I was your voice when you couldn't speak and your eyes when you could not see. I am everything I am Dad because you loved me. Run on those new legs in heaven free of cancer Dad. I love you and will miss you every day. love your daughter*

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**Denise Herkimer** - February 12, 2024 at 11:27 AM

AS

*What can I say, the man, the myth, the legend! Tom was one of the greatest guys I knew. Met him at Oldsmobile and will keep him in my heart forever!*

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**Amy Sutherland** - February 13, 2024 at 08:16 AM