



Thomas Steven Grecco

December 29, 1942 - December 4, 2015

Thomas Steven Grecco, 72, of Mooresville, NC, passed away on Friday, December 4, 2015. He was born on December 29, 1942 in Brooklyn, NY, to the late Salvatore and Rose D'Aguino Grecco. Throughout his youth, he was a stellar athlete at SS Seward Institute in Florida, NY. Tom became a police officer on December 31st 1967. He rose to the rank of Juvenile Detective. In 1978 started the Middletown Police Department Juvenile Aid Bureau, the first in Orange County. Tom then wrote a grant request for funding to convert an old service garage next to the Middletown Police Station into what remains, The JAB Office (Juvenile Aid Bureau).

With his help, the Orange County Youth Bureau was able to convince other Orange County Police Departments to establish their own Juvenile Aid Bureaus and was in the forefront of forming and innovating programs that were copied by other departments throughout the State of New York. Tom also began a program with Muppet-type puppets in which he would go into the classrooms and teach children of the danger of strangers as well as other tools to keep them safe. Dedication to child safety also encompassed the first ever program for parents of Middletown to have their child fingerprinted in the event the child would become missing. This became a priority for him after the abduction of Etan Patz in NYC in 1979. Until his retirement, Detective Grecco kept a Missing Child Poster of Etan Patz on his office bulletin board and viewed it daily. Little Etan Patz was the driving force for the fingerprinting of children for the parents to hold onto and maintain in their possession should

their child become missing. It was free to all. In 1979, he started the BMX Track for kids. Tom, with the help of many volunteers and local businesses, spent countless hours, resurrected an unused vacant plot of Orange County land, located on CR-78. It was within 2 years the BMX Track would become the largest track on the East Coast, averaging approximately 350 - 400 riders per week. Kids from all over the US, Canada, Germany and Japan came to race at two Grand Nationals. For his tireless efforts and dedication with the BMX program, he received a Certificate of Merit from US Congressman Benjamin Gilman. Tom was always a steward to the citizens of Middletown. He was elected as President of the State of New York Police Juvenile Officers Association and rose to Executive Director, a position he held until 1996. Once again, he continued to help countless young children and was instrumental in rewriting training policies for the Division For Youth services. His dedication led to his nomination and selection for the prestigious Brice L. Woody Award in 1995, of which he was most proud. Later in 1995, he was selected by then Governor George E. Pataki to assist with reforming the Juvenile Justice Laws that dealt with both crimes committed by Juveniles and those committed against juveniles. His work with children extended to two elected terms to the Middletown School Board, for which he would eventually hold positions as President, Vice-President and Chairman of the Finance Committee. His service to the Middletown School Board continued for nearly 12 years. Detective Thomas Grecco served both his community and his fellow officers until his retirement in late 1999.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Alfred Grecco.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Christine Sawka Grecco; children, Elizabeth Grecco-Kotronis (Jim), Thomas Joseph Grecco (Angela), Ngel Sok, Jillian Sok-Deeb (Jason); brother, Anthony Grecco (Joan); and his grandchildren, Olivia, Avery, Logan, Ava, Madison, and Corbin.

Services for Tom will be held in Middletown, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501

St Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105 or Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box
758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Steven Grecco*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Thomas Steven Grecco*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Thomas Steven Grecco*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Thanks for the reminder.*

maureen halpin - December 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was just reminded of your uncle's passing. May he RIP I met him after his nephew. He was a good influence on juvineilles. Lol:)*

Maureen Halpin - December 03, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm sorry for your loss he was a nice man mayhe rest in peacel just found out.*

maureen - February 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I just got the bad news I didnt know. My prayers are with the family during this difficult time he was a nice man I also didn't know his brother passed . god bless you and may they rest in peace.

maureen halpin - February 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Grecco Family,Saddened to hear of Tom's passing. My condolences to the family. I knew Tom many years ago....did not know he was in Mooresville, wished we would have ran into each other here, my husband and I moved here {Mooresville) 11 years ago. Tom was such a nice man, who made a difference in so many lives. May he rest in peace.

Lori Decker - January 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs. Grecco & Family,I was saddened to read about Toms passing. He was instrumental in helping me start the Port Jervis Police Department's Juvenile Aid Bureau in the early '80s. His dedication to the youth of Middletown, Orange County an NYS will always be remembered. May he rest in peace.Gary W. LopriorePolice Chief (Ret.)City of Port Jervis

December 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Christine I am so sorry to hear about Tom. If I can do anything, please let me know. Prayers to you and your familyAnn B. Hartline CPA

Ann Hartline - December 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *Rest in Peace. Tom Grecco made a difference to many kids lacking direction in their teen years. Thank you for all you have done for the Middletown Police Dept.*

k mott - December 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *Christine and family My thoughts and prayers are with you all. It was an honor to work under the direction of Tom at the MPD. He will be sadly missed by so many.*

JOANNE NEWMAN-MCDERMOTT - December 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM