



## Thomas F. Sweeney MD

November 23, 1947 - March 20, 2015

Thomas Francis Sweeney, M.D., of North Haven, CT., died March 20, 2015. He was 67. Tom was the loving husband of Anne (Harmon), the devoted father of Kelley (John) O'Connell of Milford, MA., Colin Sweeney of Los Angeles, CA., and Liam Sweeney of North Haven, as well as the very proud grandfather of Kaitlin and Lindsay O'Connell. He is also survived by his siblings William (Anne) Sweeney of Madison, MaryEllen Maher of Milford, Frances Rife of Branford, and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brother-in-law Donald Maher.

Tom was born November 23, 1947 in New Haven to Helen (Carney) and Retired Chief NHFD Francis Sweeney. He attended St. Brendan's Grammar School, Notre Dame High School, and The College of the Holy Cross. He then returned to New Haven to continue preparation for what would be a remarkable career in medicine. Following his graduation from The Yale School of Medicine, he completed his internship and residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Certified by the American Board of Surgery with Special Qualification in General Vascular Surgery, Tom became a preeminent vascular surgeon in the New Haven community, caring for thousands of patients, and participating in the training of hundreds of medical students and resident physicians at both Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Hospital of St. Raphael. He was a founding partner of the Connecticut Vascular Center and throughout four decades remained at the forefront of vascular surgery technology as the field rapidly advanced. For the last 14 years he has served as the Associate Chief, Section of Vascular Surgery at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Over the course of his career, Tom served on virtually every important hospital committee. He was President of the Yale-New Haven Hospital medical staff and President of the New Haven Medical Society. He served on the Board of Directors of the Yale Surgical Society, the Yale Medical School Alumni Fund, and the Reunion Committee.

In 2012, when the Yale-New Haven Hospital and Hospital of Saint Raphael joined to

create a single institution, Tom became Associate Chief of the Department of Surgery and Director of Surgical Services at the Yale-New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael Campus. His leadership was pivotal in uniting the surgical services and training programs of the two hospitals and in the resolution of a host of challenging strategic and logistical issues. In this role, as in all the leadership positions Tom generously accepted over four decades, he demonstrated unfailing integrity, fairness, honesty, and compassion. Our medical community has lost a great doctor, leader, colleague and friend.

Anyone who worked with Tom in the operating room knew that classical music was the soundtrack to his life. He wanted to ensure others had the chance to love it too, which lead him to serve on the Board of Directors of the New Haven Symphony for a number of years.

Tom felt extremely fortunate for the opportunity to explore the world together with Anne. Their adventures – be they alone, with family, or with friends – spanned the globe, many taking them to golf's most famous courses. Tom truly loved golf – even when it didn't love him back. He cherished time spent playing with great friends. As he once played with his own father, Tom golfed with his children to teach them of the game and of life. But, with Anne, he played for love.

Friends may call on Wednesday, March 25 from 4-8pm at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home at 3105

Ave., Hamden. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, March 26 at 11:00 am at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 2819 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Friends are asked to go directly to the church. Burial to follow at All Saint's Cemetery , North Haven. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sweeney Family Scholarship Fund at Notre Dame High School ( Notre Dame West haven, 24 Ricardo Street, West Haven, CT 06516) or Yale-New Haven Hospital ([www.givetoynhh.org/give-in-honor](http://www.givetoynhh.org/give-in-honor)). [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

700 Middletown Ave.  
North Haven, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling hours

MAR 25. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home  
3105 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06518  
(203) 288-7114  
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

## Funeral service

MAR 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church  
2819 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT

# Tribute Wall

LV

“ Anne, I am so sorry for your loss.  
I was a classmate of Tom at ND. I don't have any great story to share. My recollection of Tom is that he was always a genuinely concerned, quality person.

with deepest sympathy,  
Lou Verdi

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**Louis Verdi** - April 06, 2015 at 01:29 AM

TD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom's family, friends and colleagues.

Tim & Judy Neville

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**Timothy D.Neville** - April 01, 2015 at 05:08 PM

RB

“ Russell B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Thomas F. Sweeney MD.



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**Russell B.** - March 28, 2015 at 10:38 PM

SB

“ Sorry to hear of your loss Bill. We heard so many good things about him.  
Love Sue and Russ

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**Sue and Russ Bilodeau** - March 28, 2015 at 09:26 PM

LM

“ Irene and I got to know Tom through my son-in-law, Bart Muhs, a vascular surgeon now practicing out of Middletown, CT. We live in Singapore. My daughter, Su Hsien came to the USA, and works at the Yale Medical Hospital as an oncologist. We visit her family a couple of times a year, staying about a month each time. We did not know many people in the area, and Tom made sure to see us on each trip, and took me to many great golfing spots in the state. He was a truly gracious, generous gentleman, with a ready smile, and a quick wit... such great fun to be around. I will miss you dearly, Tom. Your friend, Tat Min.

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**Lim Tat Min** - March 26, 2015 at 10:18 PM

TH

“ Several years ago I was very fortunate when I was referred to Dr. Sweeney. His calm nature calmed down me as the patient as well as my very nervous wife. I will truly miss him and cherish the care he gave me. I'm happy to have met him.

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**Tom Hudson** - March 26, 2015 at 10:54 AM

GC

“ How sad I was to learn that Dr Sweeney has just passed away. I was a patient of his for many years and in Nov 2012 he performed a stent procedure for an aneurism. Thanks to his skill I am still here with my family but sadly the good doctor was taken from his at an age when he should have been enjoying a well earned retirement with his family. Goodbye Dr Sweeney, rest in peace  
Graham Chappell

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**Graham Chappell** - March 25, 2015 at 05:33 PM

TO

“ Dr. Sweeney was my mother's surgeon during her 5 year fight against cancer, starting in 1981. He was kind, sympathetic and conscientious about all aspects of her care. How they laughed when they first met and my mom remarked that he was too young to be a surgeon--- He replied that he was much older than he looked and not to worry. I will never forget that his kindness extended even when my mother died- he came to her wake. What doctor will do that today? God Bless Him and Have Mercy on Him.  
Toni Castellano

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**Toni** - March 25, 2015 at 03:37 PM

MS

“ We would like to express our sincere condolences to the family. We lost our mother a year ago, and we understand how hard it is. But I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love. May peace and comfort find you during this difficult time.  
Mary Solis-Streater, Maria Lopez' sister and family.

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**Mary Solis-Streater** - March 25, 2015 at 11:23 AM

BT

“ Dear Anne and family,  
Please pardon our absence and accept our condolences at this time of loss. Our sorrow at his passing is soothed by our memories of his rakish grin, tousled hair and Irish good humor. It has been an honor and privilege to have known Tom personally and professionally. May his deep and abiding love for you and yours for him comfort and protect you in this time of sorrow. Our love and prayers are with you.  
Bob and Karen Tross and family

Bob Tross - March 24, 2015 at 08:47 PM

BF

“ Bob and Karen Tross and family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Thomas F. Sweeney MD.



Bob and Karen Tross and family - March 24, 2015 at 08:25 PM

JO

“ Anne, Please accept my condolences and prayers on the loss of Tom. You and the family will be in my thoughts and prayers . With love, Jane Campion Olore

jane olore - March 24, 2015 at 04:14 PM

JM

“ I was a patient of Dr. Sweeney and he was such a professional and gentleman. I was totally shocked to hear of his passing. My heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife, family and all the wonderful people that worked with him. Janice Mucha

Janice Mucha - March 24, 2015 at 11:54 AM

TM

“ With fond childhood memories we send sincere sympathy to Anne and family.  
Tom and Marisa Pagnataro Melillo

Thomas Melillo - March 24, 2015 at 10:13 AM

SF

“ *My Condolences to the entire Sweeney Family on the Loss of Tom, and especially to Dr. Sweeney's wife Anne whose father was like a mentor to me on the NHFD and also to Tom's sister Francis. Thomas was a kind and compassionate person during my wife's illness and always gave her and my family great comfort while she was in his care.*

*Respectfully, Peter C. Fertig  
Ret. Captain NHFD*

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**Shelley A. Fertig** - March 24, 2015 at 10:02 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas F. Sweeney MD.*



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March 24, 2015 at 08:12 AM

JO

“ *Anne,  
Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this sad time.  
I always get a laugh when I think of him introducing me to others as his former boss from  
the good old days when we worked at Pagnataro's. Like many others, he is gone too soon. Take good care.*

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**Julie Ogren** - March 23, 2015 at 10:05 PM

CR

“ *I worked with Dr. Sweeney. He is very professional and kind to his patients. May he find peace.*

*C. Cammarano R.N.*

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**C. Cammarano R.N.** - March 23, 2015 at 06:21 PM



“ Anne,  
Please accept our sincerest sympathy on the death of your husband. Know that you have the prayerful and loving support of the entire SHA alumnae community.

Sr. Mariette Moan, ASCJ  
Director of Alumnae

Sr. Moan - March 23, 2015 at 03:24 PM



“ Heaven gained an angel.....I had the honor of working with Dr. Sweeney for many years and his patients would light up when he entered the room. They absolutely adored him!! Dr. Sweeney, you are a true gentleman....we worked side by side for years and I have some funny, memorable stories that will stay with me because of that!! I will miss you a lot and think of you often...Love Marianne Silva

Marianne Silva - March 23, 2015 at 03:20 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas F. Sweeney MD.

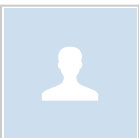


March 23, 2015 at 01:26 PM



“ Dear Anne & Family, We extend our heartfelt sympathy to you. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers and our wish is that your many beautiful memories will be a comfort to you during this very sad time. With sympathy, The Santillo's: Bill, Terri, & Treanna

Terri Santillo - March 23, 2015 at 12:11 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas F. Sweeney MD.



March 23, 2015 at 10:55 AM

JS

“ Jeffrey Salomon, Lenore Frost, Sue Vollano, Patricia Shea purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Thomas F. Sweeney MD.



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**Jeffrey Salomon, Lenore Frost, Sue Vollano, Patricia Shea** - March 23, 2015  
at 09:37 AM

LF

“ An awesome vascular surgeon and Medical Director of the Department of Surgery at Yale-Saint Raphael Campus. We will miss you. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sweeney family and loved ones. Love, Lillian Figueroa

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**Lillian Figueroa** - March 23, 2015 at 09:17 AM

NB

“ Anne, our sincerest condolences to you and the entire family. Tom was a very kind considerate true friend. We will all miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Nick Bonadies, Anne Ryder and the Bonadies families.

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**Nickolas Bonadies** - March 23, 2015 at 08:33 AM

PA

“ A true gentleman that I personally miss very much. My heart is with the Sweeney family at this difficult time. Love, Paula Lopez and family.

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**paula** - March 23, 2015 at 08:08 AM