



Atty. Thomas E. Lilly

January 21, 1939 - July 14, 2021

GROTON: Atty. Thomas E. Lilly, 82, of Groton, was born in Clinton, Massachusetts on January 21, 1939. He was the son of Atty. Richard T. and Dorothy (Shuttleworth) Lilly and resided in Groton for over fifty years. Tom grew up in Shirley and graduated from Notre Dame Preparatory School in Fitchburg as the valedictorian from the first graduating class in 1956. Tom continued his education at St. John's Seminary in Brighton and in 1967, he received a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University.

For over thirty years, Tom practiced law in Ayer, initially as a sole practitioner before becoming a founding partner in the Bowmar, Larkin, Lilly, & Barton Law Firm. During this time, Tom was a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association and past president of the North Middlesex Bar Association. He was accepted to the Massachusetts Bar and was admitted to represent clients before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Superior Court of Massachusetts, and the United States District Court. Tom attended St. Anne's Church in Littleton, where he served as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. Between 1968 – 1978, Tom served as town counsel for the Town of Ayer and later served many years as chairman of the Board of Trustees for Norte Dame Preparatory School in Fitchburg.

Tom leaves his wife of fifty-seven years, Rita (Sotera) Lilly, his son and daughter-in-law, Atty. Christopher T. and Allison Lilly of Lunenburg; daughter

and son-in-law, Jennifer L. Turi, MD and Matthew of Durham, NC; and daughter and son-in-law Stephanie J. Cronin and Peter of Dunstable; a brother, Richard T. Lilly, Jr. of NH; two sisters, Mary Jane DelMaestro of California, Clare Kauppi of Townsend; and eight grandchildren, Emma Turi, Benjamin Lilly, Katie Turi, Sophia Cronin, Elise Lilly, Isabella Cronin, Cecilia Cronin, and Francesca Cronin.

Tom died the morning of July 14th at home. A funeral Mass will be celebrated Thursday, July 22nd, 10:00 AM at St. Anne's Church, 75 King Street, Littleton. The burial will be at the Groton Cemetery. Tom's family will receive family and friends at calling hours from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 21st at the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road (Rte 2A) in Ayer. For additional information or to leave an online condolence, please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com. Memorial contributions may be made to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Ayer <https://loavesfishespantry.org/>

Cemetery Details

Groton Cemetery

Chicopee Row
Groton, MA 01450

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUL 21. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2355

Funeral Mass

JUL 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anne;s Church
75 King Street
Littleton, MA 01462

Tribute Wall

HH

“ Dear Rita, Chris and family,
What started many years ago as a business relationship between Tom and me quickly became a warm friendship. It was a privilege to have known him. It is with great personal sorrow, I extend my heartfelt sympathy.

Sincerely,
Henry Higgins

Henry Higgins - July 22, 2021 at 08:58 PM

SC

“ Our deepest condolences to Rita, Chris, Jennifer, Stephanie, and the entire family. We always enjoyed getting together with Tom and the families for Thanksgiving dinner at Chris and Allison's. Tom was always full of good humor and a pleasure to be around. He will be sorely missed by all. May he Rest in Peace. We are keeping everyone in our prayers.

In Sympathy,

Stephen and Kim Caravana and family

Stephen Caravana - July 21, 2021 at 12:04 PM

DS

“ My condolences to all of the Lilly family.

Denise Stepleton - July 21, 2021 at 10:21 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.*



July 20, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.*



July 19, 2021 at 04:01 PM



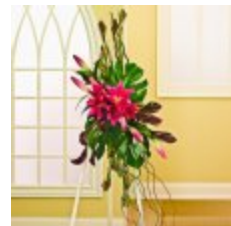
“ *Tyngsborough Administration and Board of Selectmen purchased the Fields of Europe for Spring for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.*



Tyngsborough Administration and Board of Selectmen - July 19, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ *Eternal Paradise was purchased for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.*



July 18, 2021 at 08:08 PM

KK

“ Ken and Gay Nell Kurland purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.



Ken and Gay Nell Kurland - July 17, 2021 at 09:04 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.



July 17, 2021 at 08:47 PM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.



July 17, 2021 at 07:11 PM

BB

“ Dear Rita, Chris and family, My deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

Barbara Bottino.

Barbara Bottino - July 16, 2021 at 09:26 PM

DH

Chris and family, Sue and I were saddened to hear of your dad's death. I knew him mainly while he was a member of our Club. He was a stalwart and respected member of the law profession in our area. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Dave Hopkins

David Hopkins - July 17, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.*



July 16, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Atty. Thomas E. Lilly.*



July 16, 2021 at 11:05 AM

BG

“ *Dear Rita, Chris and the rest of the Lilly family, I am so sorry to hear about Tom's passing. He was a great role model and Mentor for me when I first started practicing law in the 1970s. He was always generous with his time and his advice. I am certain that you are very proud of him not just for all his professional accomplishments but for the wonderful husband, father and community leader that he was.*

Bobby Gardner - July 16, 2021 at 09:26 AM