



Tom Warthen

JAN 29, 1949 - JUL 3, 2024



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A Celebration of the Life of Charles Thomas "Tom" Warthen, 75, of Newark will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 20, 2024 in the Newark Chapel of Vensil & Chute Funeral Home with Pastor Eric Miller officiating.

Visitation will be observed from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. prior to the service.

Tom was called to his eternal home on July 3, 2024 at Licking Memorial Hospital after a short battle with Leukemia.

He was born in Newark, OH on January 29, 1949 to the late Arthur and Dorothy Mae Warthen.

Tom was a 1971 graduate of The Ohio State University, School of Music, where he was a proud member of "The Best Damn Band In The Land!".

After a brief time as a music teacher, he worked for State Farm as well as several other companies over the years.

A lover of all things involving music, he would often be found playing bass guitar in bands around Newark.

For many years he was a youth choir director at the First United Methodist in Newark. He always said that those kids, "will always be family to me."

Tom, who always enjoyed the company of others, never met a stranger. Whether it was riding his Harley or playing trivia at BW3's, or cheering on his beloved Buckeyes.

He was always smiling, and never turned down a hug.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends and family.



Obituary

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He is survived by his daughters; Bethany Warthen, Jennifer (Louie) Johnson, and Amy (Mike) Gray; 5 grandchildren, Sidney, Katie, Zeke, Emily, and Hank; his sister Donna (Lee) Parsons, 2 nephews, Doug (Trenna) and David (Sally), and niece Diana (Randy); and several great-nieces and nephews, and cousins.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his brother, Richard; and several other relatives.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Tom's name can be made to The Ohio State University, School of Music, Fund number: 305199, 110 Weigel Hall, 1866 College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210; or to Hospice of Central Ohio, 2269 Cherry Valley Road, Newark, Ohio 43055.



Tribute Wall

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DT

D Thompson posted:

I am a former student of Tom Warthen. What his obituary does not mention is what an amazing teacher he was. He transformed students playing music; transformed our bands; fueled our enthusiasm and ignited community support and excitement for high school music. I loved the guy. Never kept in touch but remember him fondly and with gratitude. Thank you, Mr. Warthen. Your spirit sings

November 22 at 2:21 PM

BM

Brad McDavid posted:

Mr. Warthen started me in band when I was in the 5th grade in Centerburg. Little did I know in the 3 short years I would have him as my band director how much of an impact he would have on me. He allowed me start on the sousaphone even though beginners rarely do, and that set in motion a goal that he initiated when he pulled a picture of OSU's Script Ohio out of his wallet one day in rehearsal and pointed to the i-dotter and told me that one day that was going to be me dotting that "i." Little did I know that the huge impact he would have on me would not only motivate and guide me to do just that but to also motivate me to become a band director and to eventually direct the marching band at the U of Washington (from which I just retired). Whether I was starting my own beginning students at Licking Heights or instructing college students at the UW, the impact Mr. Warthen had on me for my entire career is immeasurable and I was never able to thank him enough. Bethany, I also remember when you were born while he was teaching at Centerburg and hearing you make noises during our concerts, to which your dad would just simply smile and keep on conducting! My deepest condolences to the entire family. For the short time the Centerburg School District had him, he made an indelible impact on our school and community.

September 26 at 9:35 AM

BR

Becky Rose posted:

I know Tom from the 4-H Band and Cox United Methodist choir. He had a big heart. So sorry to hear of his loss.

July 28 at 1:26 PM

RW

Rosemary Walther posted:

I worked with Tom for many years at State Farm. He was a great guy to work for and we had many good memories. Sorry for your loss.

July 20 at 6:31 AM



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RS

Roger Shaw posted:

I met Tom during his 'brief time as a music teacher' at my dad's music store in the early 70's. We played a lot of music together over the years. One of the happiest people I have ever known. He will be missed.

July 19 at 9:20 AM

RR

Rita Resek posted:

Tom was my BW3 trivia friend. He always had a smile for everyone and always knew the answer before I did. A good guy with a warm heart, glad he was my friend, he will be missed.

July 18 at 10:03 PM

PL

Patricia Law posted:

Tom was my "walking" buddy. Each day, I try to walk and would go past his residence. I would stop by for a chat as he would always say he was watching for me. Such a lovely soul.

July 17 at 12:24 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Tom by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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