



Thomas E. Raithel

February 15, 1951 - December 11, 2023

Tom Raithel died at 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 11, 2023, at Menorah Park in Cleveland.

He was 72.

Tom was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended Nicolet High School and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in English and Mass Communications at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He worked as a busboy, assembly-line worker, truck loader, janitor, landscaper, and public relations specialist. He was a journalist for several newspapers in the Midwest, including Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. He retired from journalism at the Evansville Courier & Press where he was a business reporter and columnist.

Poetry was his first love and his magnificent obsession. He loved to read it, write it and talk to others about poetry.

His poems appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *Atlanta Review*, *Nimrod*, *Comstock Review* and *Southern Poetry Review*. His poetry was selected for the Ohio River Valley Edition of *The Boom Project: Voices of a Generation*. Finishing Line Press published his first poetry collection, *Dark Leaves, Strange Light*, in 2015 and his second collection, *This Easy Falling*, in 2023.

Tom was a brilliant man who read at least four languages, owned hundreds of books, traveled the world and won every Trivial Pursuit game with his wealth of world knowledge. He was an avid guitar player, dog lover and Milwaukee Brewers fan who still kept score with pencil and paper.

Tom was a devoted friend of Bill W. with 41 years of sobriety. He was on the board of Club 24 and called May-Lee Saturday his home ever since moving to Cleveland in 2020. He shook hands at the door every Saturday until a fall left him a quadriplegic.

He is survived by his wife, Theresa Brett, and his brothers Donald M.D. (Kathryn) of Cincinnati and John (Linda Herbert) of Halfmoon Bay, CA.

He was a devoted brother-in-law to Joan, Michael (Chris Jacobs), Mary, Regina (Bruce Hennes), Thomas P. (Tish), Maureen Pearson (Andrew), Patricia (Thomas Butcher), Mark (Anita), Jim (Michelle) and Matt Brett.

He was a treasured uncle to Mark (Yesenia), Stephen (Clare) and Carolyn (Nathan) Raithel, and to Gabrielle Brett (James Sullivan), Ben Hennes (Melanie Tessmer), Joe Hennes (Sarah Grace), Rachel Pelaia (Geof), to Michael (who preceded him in death), Leah and Luke Brett; Laura and Erin Pearson; Harry Brett-Butcher; Jaclyn (Winston) Lewis, and to Emily, Hudson, Josiah, Anya, Jacob and Christopher Brett.

He was a great uncle to Asher, Ainsley and River Sullivan; Jack and Samantha Pelaia, Louisa Brett and Winston Lewis IV.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Marion Raithel, and by his beloved dogs, Andy, Alex, Mattie and Sammy, the Wonder Dog.

A remembrance service will be held at Noon on Saturday, April 20 at the Beachwood Community Center, 25225 Fairmount Blvd., Beachwood, OH.

Donations can be made in his honor to The City Mission, 5310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, OH 44103. www.thecitymission.org

Previous Events

Remembrance Service

APR **20**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Beachwood Community Center
25225 Fairmount Blvd
Beachwood, OH 44122