

**Thomas Michael Laurent**

MESA – Our wonderful husband and father, Tom Laurent, died on April 19, 2021 at Legacy Retirement Residence in Mesa, Arizona. He was seventy-seven years old. Tom was born in Algoma, Wisconsin, a beautiful town on the shores of Lake Michigan that never left his heart. His parents,



John and Laura Laurent, showered Tom and his siblings, Ken, Pat, and Judy with love and healthy values that made Tom the admirable person he was. He grew up loving athletics and people. Indeed, the friends he made in those early years remained close to him throughout his life. After graduating from college at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse, WI, he moved to Phoenix to teach biology at Gerard High School. Even after he changed careers, his former students would recognize him decades later and tell him how much they enjoyed his classes. He spent the majority of his career working in management for Sears. It was a job that matched his gregarious nature and active lifestyle. During these years he met and married his wife, Virginia. Their four grown children and families, including six grandchildren, will miss him forever. Tom also had a child from a former relationship, who gave him three grandchildren, all of whom were precious to Tom. He returned to teaching at the end of his career, and enjoyed the connection and impact he had with his students. Tom loved spending time with family and friends, being outside in nature, and participating in a myriad of sports. He was an enthusiastic hunter and fisherman. He found great joy in traveling, believing the journey to be more meaningful than the destination. People who knew him often say that he was the nicest man they ever met. Those closest to him were awed by his natural joy and boundless generosity. He was accepting, forgiving and the first to embrace someone with loving kindness. He was the true embodiment of God's love on Earth. While his passing leaves a void in our hearts, his memory remains an example of how to live a beautiful life. Services for Tom will be held at Green Acres Mortuary and Cemetery at 401 N. Hayden Rd. in Scottsdale, Arizona. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tom's memory to the charity of your choice.