

Thomas J. Cooney, 75, passed away on October 8, 2026, surrounded by the family he loved so deeply.

Tom was fully present in the lives of those he loved. Generous with his attention and appreciative of life's simple moments, he had a way of making people feel like they mattered. He celebrated others wholeheartedly and turned ordinary moments into lasting memories.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1950, Tom was the oldest son of Irene and Thomas Cooney and a devoted big brother to Patrick, Maureen, and Tim. He loved sharing stories of childhood mischief, card games, and neighborhood adventures with his siblings.

At the center of Tom's life was Cathy, his wife, best friend, and partner of 54 years. Together they built a life grounded in love, faith, friendship, and unwavering support. Their marriage was the foundation of everything that followed.

After serving as student council president and being elected Kansas City's Youth Mayor, Tom attended Santa Clara University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, earning degrees in business and law before building a successful legal career. He brought honesty, humility, and hard work to his profession, but always kept two feet firmly planted at home with his family.

He was a proud father to Peggy and Kelly, teaching them to be independent and embrace life's opportunities. He was their biggest supporter, bringing encouragement, perspective, and fun to every stage of their lives.

As "Papa" to Connor, Morgan, Everest, and Shaelan, Tom found some of his greatest joy. He was the teller of bear stories, the wearer of family Halloween costumes, #1 roller coaster rider, and the keeper of beloved traditions. A stop for root beer floats, a full moon, or a road trip were never just simple moments with Tom; they became our greatest memories.

Tom loved golf, hiking, biking, camping, and good conversation. He was a devoted sports fan, rarely missing a chance to cheer on the Kansas City Chiefs or Notre Dame football. He had an Irish wit, a playful sense of humor, and never took himself too seriously.

He also gave generously and quietly, coaching youth sports, serving his church and community, and showing up when support was needed.

More than anything, Tom cared about people. He listened closely, encouraged generously, and celebrated others wholeheartedly.

Tom leaves behind a family shaped by his example. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Cathy Cooney; Peggy, Tommy, Connor, and Morgan Ding; Kelly Cooney, Matt, Everest, and

Shaelan Echave; Patrick and Jessica Cooney; Tim and Mitzi Cooney; Maureen Gentry; Matt and Pam Bowen; John and Nancy Bowen; Patty Walsh; and many nieces and nephews.

Please join us in celebrating Tom's life on November 7th at St. Mary of the Crown Catholic Church in Carbondale at 10:30 am, lunch to follow at Aspen Glen Country Club.

Donations can be made in his name to Valley View Hospital Foundation and to St. Mary of the Crown Catholic Church.

