



## Thomas P. Ramirez

February 5, 1926 - December 18, 2020

Thomas P. Ramirez, of Fond du Lac, died as the sun rose on Friday, December 18, 2020 at his home at Woodlands Senior Park.

He was born on February 5, 1926, in Fond du Lac, the son of Jose M. and Marie (West) Ramirez. Upon graduating from Fond du Lac Senior High School, Class of 1944, he entered the Army to serve in the last year of WWII. Upon returning, Tom earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from the Oshkosh State Teachers College.

On September 20, 1947 he married Fern Kathleen Pygall. Together they raised two children, a daughter Vianne Marie (born 1949) and a son Gregory Thomas (born 1951). They traversed seven decades as a team, demonstrating a unique talent for making and keeping friends.

Tom taught middle grades in Campbellsport and at Franklin School in Fond du Lac for eight years while developing his talent as a feature writer. During a long career as a freelance journalist, Thomas has written dozens of short stories and authored more than 150 paperbacks, spanning such genres as mystery, military and erotica. He worked as a stringer for the National Enquirer for over 20 years, and was on the staff of National Features Syndicate in Chicago for 4 years.

Fond du Lac residents may know his recent work best – his memoir of

growing up poor in Fond du Lac during the 1930's "That Wonderful Mexican Band".

Tom was a foundational member of the Allied Authors of Wisconsin. He was a life-long member the congregation of Fond du Lac's St. Paul's Cathedral and served on the Chapter for many years.

He is survived by his daughter Vianne, her husband William Sakoda and their children - grandsons Carlos and Akira; and his son Gregory's children Jason and Courtney, her husband Dan Svoboda, and four great grandchildren – Sebastian and Cole Ramirez and Carter and Hayden Svoboda. He was preceded in death by his wife Fern, his son Gregory and three brothers, Richard, Bernard and David.

A memorial celebration will be planned for late summer.

# Tribute Wall



“ *As a kid who grew up with Tom in the days of the Great Depression, I have many fond memories of good times together. We both found our lives centered around St. Paul's Cathedral. We kept our lifelong friendship thriving. My condolences to the family of this great man. I'm really going to miss him!*

*Charles Mowbray  
Janesville, WI*

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**Charles Mowbray** - December 25, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ *So sad to hear of Tom's passing. Prayers for comfort and peace to his loved ones and friends. He had a glint in his eye as he told about his books he'd written over his lifetime, taking care of Fern and his 'dad jokes'. Know he is happy to once again be with his bride. Cathy Stratz of FDL*



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**Cathy Stratz** - December 24, 2020 at 05:56 PM

JS

“ Dear Vianne,

*I was one of your friends during grade school at Bragg School. I still remember the time you invited me to your home, my family lived a half block away at 190 Vincent Street. Your parents greeted me at the front door. I have rarely experienced such friendliness and warmth as I did from your parents that memorable day, from your dad especially. I was a shy little girl and that really resonated with me, have remembered you and your family in my prayers. I hope the decades have been good to you Vianne. Someone said you studied Pharmacy at Hawaii. Best Wishes, and Blessed Holidays!*

*With Love and Shalom,*

*Jean Stepnoski  
Jean Stepnoski@hotmail.com*

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**Jean Stepnoski** - December 23, 2020 at 02:47 PM

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“ TOM WAS A MAN WHO GAVE YOU A JOKE AND ALSO HAD A LOT OF HISTORY TOTELL YOU HAD A GREAT SMILE GREAT MAN WAS GLAD TO HAVE MEET HIM IN OUR CHURCH R.I.P. TOM WILL MISS YOU SALLY ANDERSON

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**Sally Ann Anderson** - December 22, 2020 at 07:15 PM