



Gaetano "Tom" Butera

September 2, 1921 - February 23, 2018

Gaetano "Tom" Butera, known for his incredible smile and that twinkle in his eye, journeyed peacefully on February 20th, 2018 surrounded by his loving family.

Gaetano was born on September 2nd, 1921 in Jersey City. His parents, Giuseppe Butera and Vincenza Lampione, immigrated to New York from Sicily, married in 1913 and made their home in Brooklyn, New York on Knickerbocker Avenue. When Tom was about 8, the family (6 sisters and 1 brother), moved to Walden, New York. There starts an adventure where we were constantly entertained by his stories and his story telling ability. It made you feel that you were right there.

The family moved to Hollywood, California when he was a teenager. The adventures continued there.

He joined the United States Air Force right out of high school and was a young cadet in Texas, where he met and married the love of his life, Angelina Herrera. They moved to New York where he began his career in clothing design. They moved back to San Antonio, TX after their daughter Adelina Judy (Tinker) was born. After a short move to California, they returned and settled in San Antonio.

Tom was loved by all and had an insatiable passion for life. He touched the

lives of every person who had the pleasure of knowing him. He always made you laugh and shared a smile with everyone. He loved fine dining at Italian restaurants, planning dinners for OSIA, handicapping at the horse track, dancing, traveling, especially to CA to visit family, and speaking Italian. Family always came first which he loved unconditionally. He loved all friends at Order Sons of Italy in America and Pompeo Coppini Lodge, which he helped found. He was a life-long member of the Knights of Columbus and he also took great pleasure in attending the senior citizen meetings at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

Tom is preceded in death by his loving wife, Angelina; and his sons Joseph Anthony and Thomas Joseph, sisters Florence (John) Burrati, Aurora Black (Eddie), Emilia Taddeo (Jack), Josie Clark (Douglas) , Jean Mugar (Burt), Adeline Hackenberry, brother Gino Butera and niece Vicky Shaklin.

He is survived by his daughter, Tinker Kochwelp (Howard); his three wonderful grandchildren: Adrian Grant (Brandon), Ashton Arthur, and Colby Kochwelp (Holly), and one truly cherished great grandson, Hayden Grant, numerous loving nieces and nephews, cousins and countless precious loving friends.

Serving as pallbearers are: Jerry DuTerroil, Gennero DuTerroil, Jeffrey Gerdes, Brandon Grant, William (Bill) Kochwelp, Colby Kochwelp. Honorary pallbearers are all nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to Jane Llanus who made sure he started the day with delicious food and good conversation, his sweet neighbors, especially Johnny and Mayra Garcia who have been there for us in every way. He was so blessed to be able to make some very special friends at The Forum, where he started a new adventure last June. The care and love he was given especially Debbie (Linda) Garcia, Letty Silva, Ed, Dr. Sinha and sweet Vickie who made sure we were given special attention. And a heartfelt thank you to our new friend Shirley McCullough who gave us hope and comfort. The family would

also like to recognize and thank Dr. Stuart Brigham at Wilford Hall for the years of care, friendship and support.

Cemetery Details

San Fernando II

746 Castroville Rd
San Antonio, TX, TX 78237

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 26. 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Rosary

FEB 26. 6:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Mass

FEB 27. 10:30 AM (CT)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
600 Oblate
San Antonio, TX 78216

Interment

FEB 27 (CT)

San Fernando II
746 Castroville Rd
San Antonio, TX, TX 78237

Tribute Wall

TK

“ *Miss you.*

Tinker Kochwelp - March 03, 2018 at 08:19 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gaetano "Tom" Butera.*



February 26, 2018 at 02:01 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gaetano "Tom" Butera.*



February 26, 2018 at 08:39 AM

DB

“ *Dana Anthony & Patrick Barry purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gaetano "Tom" Butera.*



Dana Anthony & Patrick Barry - February 24, 2018 at 04:49 PM