



## Thomas Edward Kister

January 1, 1938 - January 13, 2022

Thomas Edward Kister, 84, of Leesburg, Florida passed away peacefully in his home, with his family by his side, on January 13, 2022. Thomas was born January 1, 1938, in Cleveland, OH to Elmer and Wilma Jean (Hawkins) Kister. He proudly served his country during the Korean War as a member of the United States Air Force. He enjoyed a 50-year career as an executive salesperson in various specialties. He had a lifelong love of sports, especially for his hometown Indians, Browns and The Ohio State Buckeyes. Locally, Thomas was a member of the Welcome Home Christian Church and volunteered with the thrift shop, the Leesburg library, and as a tutor in the Leesburg city school district.

Above everything else he put his family first. He had an incredible ability to connect to the hearts of his wife, daughters, and grandchildren. He always knew how to ask all the right questions and if you were with him - you were the most important person in his world and you felt like you could do anything in the world. He brought so much joy to his family and could always be counted on: driving his girls to school after a missed bus ride, playing hide and go seek with his sweet wife "boo boo bear" after a long day of work, going to his grandson's double header or his granddaughter's volleyball game. Showing up was what he did. He would encourage you, support you and love you unconditionally for who you were - no matter what. He was selfless, genuine, kindhearted, and loyal. No matter what he did, big or small, he gave

it everything he had. He never gave up on anything or anyone. He was the glue that held his family together.

Some people's legacy is a name on a building or a large financial gift; but his legacy was a legacy of Godly character, a true demonstration of unconditional love, and a rich family legacy. He is survived by his wife of 61 years May "Debbie" Kister of Leesburg; daughters: Teri (Greg) Alexander of Charlotte, NC, Pamela (Dr. Scott) Brady of Windermere, FL; grandchildren: Alex (Lindsay) Krivanek, Alli Krivanek, Abigail Brady, Lydia Brady, Sarah Brady, Hannah Brady. As well as Monica Ball of London, England, who holds a very special place in his heart.

A Funeral Service will be held on Monday January 17 beginning at 4:30 PM in the Chapel of Beyers Funeral Home, Leesburg with a visitation 1 hour prior. A private interment including Military Honors will be conducted at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL. In lieu of flowers the family has asked all donations be made to St. Judes Childrens hospital. Condolences may be left at [www.beyersfuneralhome.com](http://www.beyersfuneralhome.com), arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Leesburg, FL.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Edward Kister*



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May 11, 2022 at 07:17 PM

JW

*Tom and I were radio operators at Addison Jr High in Cleveland in the 1950's. We spent a lot of time together recording programs and sending them to the various classes. I have not seen him since but did speak to him by phone several years ago. I'll never forget the conversation because he called me "the radio man".*

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**john woods** - June 26, 2025 at 12:12 AM

MB

“ *Debbie and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏 Margareth*

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**Margareth Bastos** - January 17, 2022 at 10:03 AM

MH

“ Tom was very close to my father, Jack Goodwyn, they used to attend games together when Tom was growing up. As Tom got older, my father would send funny, anonymous birthday cards to him which were mailed from different states, and countries, to try to fool him, but Tom knew who it was and got a real kick out of it. I think he waited for them every year!

The story I remember the most that was told more than one time was when my father had Tom go with him to keep an eye on my brother and I while he stopped in for a "quick" visit with old co-workers at the newspaper where he had worked. Tom was instructed to make sure we did not get out of the car, and of course my father took a long time visiting, and me being the kid I was wanted to get out of the car. When Tom told me "NO", I put my hands on my hips and said " well who made you the boss anyway?". Not sure exactly how old I was but probably around 5 or 6 at the time.

Tom and Debbie made my brother, John, and I very welcome when we flew from Seattle to Cleveland to visit in 2001. It was a great visit but was cut short due to changed airline schedules, as this was right after 9/11. We had planned on going to Florida to visit and see their retirement home, but it just was not the right timing and that is one thing I regret.

I will always remember Tom's great sense of humor and how you knew that you had his complete attention when you were talking to him. I will miss our phone conversations which we had at various times during the year. You will be missed Tom!

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**Mary Ellen Herman** - January 15, 2022 at 08:47 PM