



Thomas James Zanios III

January 17, 1980 - June 10, 2021

On Thursday, June 10, 2021, Thomas James Zanios III, loving husband, father, son, brother, friend, and colleague, passed away at the age of 41.

Thomas was born on January 17, 1980, in Mason City, Iowa to Jamie and Nancy (Smythe) Zanios. Even as an infant, Thomas had a seemingly endless supply of energy and enthusiasm for being around people that stayed with him throughout the rest of his life. His parents claimed their newborn needed little to no sleep, preferring instead to stay up and socialize; a claim echoed some 40 years later by his high school sweetheart and wife, Emily (Becker).

Growing up, Thomas spent summers in Clear Lake, Iowa where he developed a passion for sailing from a young age. He was a focused, fierce competitor for Clear Lake Yacht Club, traveling to lakes around the Midwest for regattas after he successfully persuaded his devoted mother to learn to navigate two lane highways and narrow boat ramps with a boat trailer hitched to the back of the car. His love of sailing set him on his life course, as he attended Tufts University where he and his sailing teammates forged lifelong friendships on the nearly-frozen Mystic Lake during early spring sailing practices. After college, Thomas went on to work in New York, Miami and, ultimately, Westport, CT where he was a founding partner of Gemspring Capital, a private equity firm.

Though there is much about Thomas that is unforgettable, his family and friends will most remember him for his ready smile and genuine joy for life. No matter the occasion, Thomas took the experience to the next level. He led the charge of an attempted (and failed) cow tipping on the eve of his wedding and once literally “danced his pants off” by splitting the seam of his pants on a dance floor. He always ordered two extra dishes for the table when dining out, and whether that was really to taste everything on the menu or just to push his parents’ buttons, we will never know.

Thomas found a way to connect with everyone around him. From the CEO of a billion-dollar company to a server at a local restaurant, he would ask you about your life and

genuinely wanted to know your story. From Iowa, to Boston, to Miami, to New York, to Rhode Island, and many places besides, Thomas made – and kept – friends who were always welcome at his home and by his side. His relentless pursuit of the perfect golf swing was matched only by the number of friends he made on the course and the apparel he collected off of it. Many of these same friends could often be found with him on one of his many adventures; from out of bounds skiing out West to kite surfing in the Atlantic, he was always ready to try new things and make new memories. Thomas happily shared his love of daring pastimes with his siblings in childhood and then with his daughters, who credit their budding wakeboarding and skiing hobbies to Dad.

Because most of all, Thomas was a loving, dedicated father to his two strong daughters, Eliza and Maisie. Though Thomas's time on this earth was far too short, it is with his children that he leaves his deepest legacy. From him, they got their intelligence and quick wit, their bravery and sense of daring, their curiosity and a tenacious work ethic. They have an excellent sense of humor, a love of music, and a genuine interest in and appreciation for the people and world around them.

His wife will miss his smiling eyes, his calloused hands, his thorough logic, and his heavenly foot massages. His children will miss his bedtime lullabies, his swimming pool antics, his silliness, his expertise in all things griddled and grilled, and his unwavering adoration. All who knew him will miss his infectious energy and the fun he brought to any given day. Thomas lived his life head on and pulled everyone along with him. He inspired, encouraged, and challenged us to take advantage of every opportunity and live life to the fullest. Though we will miss him here every day, we know that he is onto his next big adventure, and we can't wait to hear about it when we see him again.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Emily, and their daughters, Eliza and Maisie; parents Jamie and Nancy; sister Whitney (Andrew) Zanios and brother Parker Zanios; in-laws Tim and Sherry Becker; brothers-in-law Ben (Tabitha) Becker and Zach Becker (Casey Sweeney); nieces Willa, Mem, Savannah, and Alaina; nephews Otto and Gus; and man's best friend Finley.

Thomas was predeceased by his grandparents, Tom and Tula Zanios, and William and June Smythe, and his uncle, Tom Zanios Jr.

There will be a private funeral service for the family. Friends are welcome to attend the visitation on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapel, 310 1st Ave. N., Clear Lake, IA from 4-6 p.m. or join the family on Friday, June 18 at the Clear Lake Yacht Club, 103 Main Ave., from 2–4 p.m. There will be a memorial on the East Coast at a

later date.

Donations in Thomas's honor may be made to the newly formed Thomas J. Zanius III Foundation (P.O. Box 99, Mason City, IA 50402) that will provide support for causes important to Thomas and his family, or to a charity of your choice in his memory.

Cemetery

Memorial Park Cemetery

11495 265th St.

Mason City, IA, 50401

Events

JUN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

17

Ward Van Slyke Colonial Chapel

310 1st Avenue North, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

JUN **Celebration** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

18

Clear Lake Yacht Club

103 Main Ave., Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

Comments



“ Deepest condolences to the entire Zanius family. Emily, I am sending you and the girls all my thoughts and prayers during this time. I worked with Thomas for three years at Odyssey and he was a special person. After he left the firm we would catch up about business and life and he was always so happy and upbeat. He will be missed by all the lives he touched.

Wishing you strength, faith and may you feel his everlasting love around you as you move forward!

Jen Rogg

Jennifer Rogg - June 30 at 09:36 AM



“ Jamie, Nancy and family no words can truly convey our heartfelt sympathy to all of you during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers for strength. Dan & Carol Schroeder

Carol Schroeder - June 17 at 02:51 PM



“ Emily, girls, Becker & Zanius family, We are so so sorry for your loss. Thomas was a nice guy! Hold on to all your beautiful memories forever! Hugs & love to all of you!

Randy & Brenda Davis - June 17 at 01:09 PM



“ Whitney and family,
I'm so sorry about this huge loss to your family. Your brother sounded like he had multiple "once in a lifetime" adventures in one life's time. What a blessing that you have so many great memories to cherish of him! My heart goes out to you.

Lots of hugs, Jennifer Hayes

Jennifer Hayes - June 17 at 12:31 PM



“ Debra Klein lit a candle in memory of Thomas James Zanos III



Debra Klein - June 17 at 11:58 AM



“ What a beautiful tribute to Thomas. We are all grieving with you, many memories. Jimmy has some stories - one of Thomas stealing your dad's car!!! Jim helped him thru that - unsure if your dad knows about that one! As you are all heading into the next couple of days, please know we all are grieving with you - Thomas was so special, as you all are to me and the family and our parish community. Please give yourselves extra hugs from me; we love you all and pray for your strength through this very hard journey.
May His Memory Be Eternal !!!
Debra, James and Dimitria Klein

Debra Klein - June 17 at 11:57 AM



“ May his memory be eternal. Our deepest condolences to the Zanos and Becker families. We are so sorry for your loss. Laura Cerny and Jim Lalor

Laura Cerny - June 17 at 04:47 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Barb Yankey - June 16 at 08:29 PM



“ Dear Jamie, Nancy and Zanios Family...Often memories of the little moments in life offer the most comfort. Jon and I hope your many memories of a life well lived and your immeasurable love for Thomas will bless you with peace in the days ahead.

Jon and Barb Yankey - June 16 at 08:47 PM



“ We are shocked and saddened. May God guide you through this time of mourning. Our deepest sympathies. Mary Lynn and Bill Oertel

Mary Lynn Oertel - June 16 at 03:35 PM



“ Sending our deepest sympathies to the Zanios family. We were lucky to have gotten to know Thomas at Whitney and Andrew's wedding and through their stories about him. Our thoughts are with you.

Andrea and Jesse Reinhardt

Jesse Reinhardt - June 16 at 11:49 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Robin Anderson - June 15 at 11:22 PM



“ Tim, Sherry, Emily, and family,

We express our sympathy. You are in our thoughts, and prayers. We are sure thinking of you all. May the fond memories of Thomas be in your heart forever. God bless you all.

Harlan and Marge Baack



Harlan and Marge Baack - June 15 at 10:42 PM



“ My prayers and condolences are with you and all your family during this very tragic period most of all celebrate his life with memories

George Malaktaris - June 16 at 09:13 AM



“ Thomas will always be 15 years old in my memories. A young saxophonist who enjoyed Jazz band as much as I did. In symphonic band, he made Gil Lettow proud which is an accomplishment on its own. He always was up for a good laugh and had a nice mix of playfulness and drive. Genuinely a great guy. I'm so sorry that he left us waaay too soon. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and close friends.

Rob Beasley

Robert Beasley - June 15 at 09:57 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to Jamie, Nancy, and the entire Zanios family! Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this tough time.

Steve and Cozette Alexandres

Steve Alexandres - June 15 at 07:44 PM



“ One of those times that you must trust God had his reasons to take him so soon. My sincere condolences to all of you. Godspeed.



Tena (Bostinelos) Wensman - June 15 at 07:34 PM



“ Our condolences to the Zanios family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Russ Erickson and Dee Foutch

Delia Foutch - June 15 at 05:58 PM



“ Condolences from the Green Family.

Green Family - June 15 at 04:48 PM



“ Our heartfelt condolences to the Zanios family. Norma and John Utne

Norma Utne - June 15 at 03:27 PM



“ Condolences, love and prayers to the family katie pals

katie pals - June 15 at 03:12 PM



“ This is very sad news for the family.....sending my condolences. Jean Alitz Sagara

Jean A Sagara - June 15 at 01:36 PM



“ I am so, so sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts.

Louise Kaufman - June 15 at 11:33 AM