

## Thomas John Felak

September 4, 1931 - August 13, 2022

North Augusta, SC—The Memorial Mass for Mr. Thomas John Felak, 90, who entered into rest August 13, 2022, will be conducted Monday morning, August 22, 2022, at 11 o'clock at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church with Father Richard Wilson celebrant. Inurnment will be held Tuesday morning, August 23, 2022, at 11 o'clock at Fort Jackson National Cemetery with Veteran Honors. A vigil will be prayed Sunday afternoon, August 21, 2022, at 4 o'clock, followed by the visitation until 6.

Tom was born in Toledo, OH on September 4, 1931. A year later the family moved to Belle Vernon, PA and then on to Speers Hill, PA. Tom graduated from Charleroi High School in 1950, where he played football and baseball. Baseball was his first love and he excelled at it as a Mon Valley Area outstanding hard-hitting catcher. After graduating high school Tom worked briefly at Corning Glass Works in Charleroi, but soon signed a professional baseball contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates to play on their minor league Class D farm team at Brunswick, GA of the Georgia-Florida League. He was recommended by well-known local area Pirate scout, George Chacko, and formally signed to contract by none other than Pirates Hall of Famer, Pie Traynor.

However, early in Tom's professional career a playing injury cut short his chances of fulfilling his dream of someday playing in the big leagues. Soon after his minor league baseball playing ended Tom enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served 3 years during the Korean Conflict until

October 1955. Because of his strong baseball skills, the Marines quickly recruited him to play for their teams at Parris Island, SC and Quantico, VA. At Parris Island Tom played against professional baseballers, Dick Groat (Pirates), Vernon Law (Pirates), and Willie Mays (Giants). While stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba he was again recruited to play along with and against other former professional players in Cuba's Naval Base League. He also played baseball and basketball against the Harlem Globetrotters as part of an event for the entertainment of the troops. Tom finished his final military baseball career leading the league in batting with a .417 average and as a top league home run producer. Upon discharge from the Marines, Tom achieved the rank of Corporal and the "Expert" rifle shooting medal.

After the military and concurrently while working and raising his two young sons, Tom attended college at California State University at California, PA earning a degree in Parks and Recreation. Employed by Washington County, PA initially developing tax maps, he was the first employee of the Parks and Recreation Department rising to the Assistant Director position. In 1981 he relocated to Houston, TX and 1985 to the North Augusta, SC area to be near family and became employed at the Savannah River Plant. He was the long-time caretaker of the ORA Recreation Site.

Tom always loved working and being outdoors whenever possible. He enjoyed all forms of competition such as shooting pool, bowling, horseshoes, cards, etc. especially with his family. However, his strong love of baseball throughout his life found him coaching his sons' youth teams and even umpiring games in his later years. Tom was always an avid Pittsburgh area sports enthusiast and both he and his wife, Fran, were lifetime fans of the Pirates and Steelers.

Tom was a member of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in North Augusta, the Knights of Columbus, and the American Legion. He was preceded by in death his parents, Charles Michael Felak and Mary Bela Kutsik Felak; his older brother, Ray (Barbara Janosik) Felak.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Frances Cecelia Pavlecic Felak; two sons, Charles (Debora Black) Felak of Ephrata, PA, and John (Mary Clutter)

Felak of North Augusta, SC, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren;  
his younger brother, David (Shirley Agnew Robertson) Felak of Aiken, SC.

Memorials may be made to the Marine Corps League, Toys for Tots at [www.toysoftots.org](http://www.toysoftots.org)

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta is in charge of arrangements (803-278-1181). Visit the registry at [www.PoseyCares.com](http://www.PoseyCares.com)

# Previous Events

## Vigil

AUG **21**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors  
1307 Georgia Avenue  
North Augusta, SC

## Visitation Following Vigil Service

AUG **21**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors  
1307 Georgia Ave  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
(803) 278-1181  
admin@poseycares.com  
<https://www.poseycares.com>

## Memorial Mass

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church  
139 Way of Peace  
North Augusta, SC 29841

## Inurnment

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fort Jackson National Cemetery  
4170 Percival Road  
Columbia, SC



# Tribute Wall



“ *Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas John Felak*



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**Posey Funeral Directors** - August 21, 2022 at 12:04 PM

DJ

*Beautiful video...❤️*

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**Dudik John** - August 21, 2022 at 04:38 PM



“ *Thomas John Felak*

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October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM



“ *Thomas John Felak*

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September 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ *He was my uncle... along with his wife...my aunt Fran... I wish every child could have an Uncle Tom And Aunt Fran... they could experience the blessings that I had!❤️ Love you Uncle Tom...may you Rest In Peace.*

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**Dudik John** - August 21, 2022 at 04:18 PM

JE

“ So many wonderful memories with Tom! Our hearts are with all of you.

*With our love and friendship, Rocky and Suzanne*

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**Joseph and Suzanne Eiseman** - August 21, 2022 at 11:38 AM

DS

“ So sorry. 🙏🙏

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**Diane Shuler** - August 20, 2022 at 01:08 PM

BB

“ Prayers for all the Felak family in the passing of Tom.  
*Bill and Sheila Black*

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**Bill and Sheila Black** - August 20, 2022 at 07:03 AM

DS

“ Dave and Shirley purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Thomas John Felak.



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**Dave and Shirley** - August 19, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas John Felak.



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August 19, 2022 at 11:23 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas John Felak.*



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August 18, 2022 at 02:13 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas John Felak.*



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August 17, 2022 at 10:04 PM



“ *On behalf of American Legion Post 71 our condolences go out to your family. Please let us know if there is anything we can do. - R. Dusty Dawson; Post 71 Commander.*



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**R. Dusty Dawson** - August 17, 2022 at 08:16 PM



“ *Work with Tom at the ORA, Great man. He will be missed.*

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**Frank Easton** - August 17, 2022 at 08:15 PM



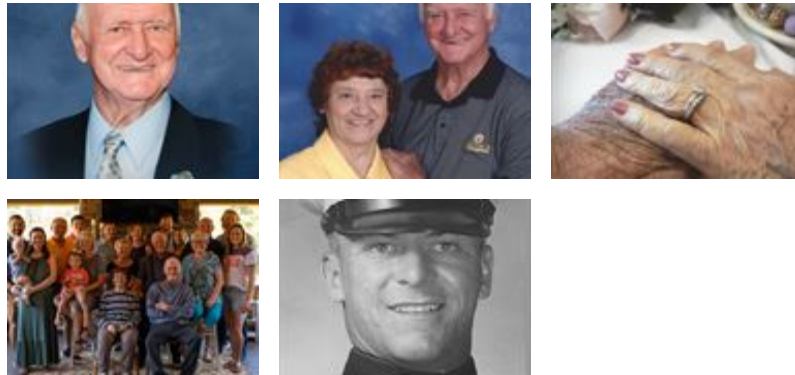
“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas John Felak.*



August 17, 2022 at 04:34 PM



“ *98 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Posey Funeral Directors** - August 17, 2022 at 04:30 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss, I worked with John at SRS in the 80's. Great guy, will be remembered by many.*

**chris connell** - August 17, 2022 at 04:11 PM



“ *Our condolences to John, Mary and family. Thinking of you and keeping you in our hearts and prayers jim and Debbie Paradis*



**Debra Paradis** - August 16, 2022 at 09:39 PM

JM

“ Prayers for the Felak family as they grieve the loss of dad, friend and hero.

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joan miller - August 15, 2022 at 10:22 PM

DL

“ Condolences John, and to your family in the loss of your dad

Judge Sheridan (Danny) Lynn.

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Danny Lynn - August 15, 2022 at 01:19 PM