



Thomas Lee Flanigan

October 31, 1972 - April 27, 2021

Well, that's it. I have completed my shift as the great American cliché. In the spirit of what turned out to be my last New Year's letter, my wild and crazy life has again taken a new, unexpected turn with my shocking and unexpected, yet fabulous, exit. Yes, I have joined the likes of Princess Diana, John Belushi, and Steve Irwin the Crocodile Hunter in leaving while still at the top of my game as an iconic superhero who seemed almost too good to be true.

It was a good run. No, a great run, but I can't take all the credit. Northern Michigan University and my Lambda Chi Alpha brothers, Wayne State University Medical School, The United States Army, colleagues, various celebrities, random cartoon characters, people who make memes, Russians and other friends and family all contributed. As you know, my wife, Amy, and my kids Joey (14), Evelyn (13), and Sylvia (10) are the absolute best. Please take good care of them like the priceless treasures they are.

I will admit that I originally got married for the husband jokes and had kids for the dad jokes. It did not disappoint. The jokes I mean, but Amy and the kids were pretty good too. Going to school events, dance competitions, and eight zillion hockey practices at the crack of dawn really makes a man's life worthwhile. I also saw some other delightful things in my time here - Hawaiian volcanoes, Egyptian pyramids, and even the advent of air fryers. I will say, it was magical, all of it.

In case you've heard the rumors, I did dabble in a few other things along the way during my 48 years, like serving my country in combat on two separate tours, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and saving countless lives as an accomplished surgeon and MD. Oh, there was also that whole, fulfilling, "cosmetic and reconstructive surgery" stint too. Yada, yada, yada. Let's talk about my real legacy, though...The dad jokes, the New Year's letters, the Facebook memes. What was I to this world if not a beacon of light shining upon those who couldn't scan the internet for their own hilarious and entertaining comic relief? I guess what I am trying to say is that you're welcome and you owe me big time.

I know it's impossible to believe, but I, the Ginger God of Surgery and Shenanigans, have fought my last cow (you're welcome Tim) and ridden off into the glorious sunset after re-enlisting with a new unit. Due to the unknown and cosmic nature of my next mission, this will be our last communication. It will self-destruct in five minutes. My whereabouts are now top secret, but let's just say I have made some new friends by the names of Elvis and Kenny. The Church of Tom is closed for business, but please continue to worship me, light candles, and send money. You know the deal.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 – 8:00 on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at Ansberg West funeral home located at 3000 W Sylvania Ave, Toledo, Ohio. A private life celebration will be held for family on Friday, May 7, 2021.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the "Flanigan Children Education" account located at Signature Bank, 4607 Sylvania Avenue, Toledo, OH 43623

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 6. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Tribute Wall

AA

“ *Condolences to the Flanagan family on the loss of an amazing husband and father. Medicine is hard, particularly lately, and military service harder. But from all accounts Dr. Flanagan handled himself with incredible talent, humor and grace. You are all in my prayers— Amy Arouni, MD, Chief of Cardiology at the Nebraska Western Iowa Healthcare System and the Omaha Veterans Administration Medical Center*

Amy Arouni - May 22, 2021 at 11:33 AM

HB

“ *Tom and I were in residency together. I delighted whenever we crossed paths so I could enjoy his signature mixture of humor and grouchiness. I did not see him nearly often enough and am so sad to see that he's gone. You'll be missed, Tom.*

Holly Barker - May 18, 2021 at 05:12 PM

DH

“ *I did not know Dr. Flanagan and feel that much poorer for it. Those that had the privilege were truly blessed. I hope they can spread and share the joy that is his essence.*

David R. Hunt, MD, FACS

David Hunt - May 13, 2021 at 05:13 PM

EM

“ I didn't know Dr. Flanigan, but heard about him through Medscape. Hats off to Dr. Flanigan. That was a great obituary, and life. May we all do that. I wish I had met and work with him. My condolences to his family.

See you eventually Dr. Flanigan.

Edwin Leschhorn, MD - May 11, 2021 at 07:18 PM



“ I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Flanigan. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Dr. Flanigan did my reconstruction surgeries following my double mastectomy. I had some setbacks, but Dr Flanigan was always positive at a very difficult time. He got me through it all and I will be forever grateful.

Lucinda Reed

Cindy Halle-Reed - May 11, 2021 at 12:16 PM

CM

“ I didn't know Dr Flanigan - but I read his obituary via Medscape. I'm also a physician and am saddened at the loss of who seemed like a great surgeon and great guy. All the love and compassion and thoughts to Ms Amy and the kids - your partner and dad will always be with you. This has been an incredibly tough year - but I really hope you have had some extra time at home to spend with him. Your courage will inspire many such as myself (I also lost my dad last year - and it was his birthday on 5/6). Condolences and in solidarity. ❤️❤️❤️ Cheryl

Cheryl Wu, MD - May 08, 2021 at 07:29 AM

CH

“ Dr. Flanagan helped change my life and I will be forever grateful for it. Thank you 💕💕.

Catina Hile - May 08, 2021 at 05:01 AM

MA

“ Doctor Flanagan did my son's jaw surgery, he was so positive and put our minds at ease, I'm so sorry to hear this, love and prayers for his family 🙏🙏🙏❤️

MaryLynnSkiver - May 07, 2021 at 07:36 PM

IN

I don't know Dr Flanagan but I read his story on medscape, his patients and colleagues has spoken good about him. I wish his loved ones Gods grace and strength as they mourn
Dr. Ifeanyi Nwadukwe

ifeanyi Nwadukwe - May 14, 2021 at 06:46 AM

KS

“ K. Straw lit a candle in memory of Thomas Lee Flanigan



K. Straw - May 07, 2021 at 03:23 PM

NM

“ Ha. Ha.
-Nelson Muntz

Condolences to the family, particularly the children.

Nelson Muntz - May 07, 2021 at 02:10 PM

SB

“ I have never met Tom but read his obituary after it took on (larger than) life of its own, much like I suspect Tom lived his. If his friends took the time to honor and celebrate him in this manner, he must really have been one heck of a great guy.

My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and all who loved him.

Sheila B - May 07, 2021 at 12:23 PM

KD

So very sorry to the family of Tom Flanigan. He was my surgeon after my mastectomy in 2016. He was very supportive and encouraging throughout my journey. RIP.

Karen Dudley - May 08, 2021 at 07:18 AM

DK

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband and father. He sounds like a pretty great guy. It's always sad when we lose "the great ones". May you rely on your family and friends to live and comfort you during this time. May God be ever present.

Diana Kramer - May 12, 2021 at 02:01 PM

LC

“ I only met Dr. Flanigan once, And my heart is broken. The one time I met him, to set up for my reconstructive surgery, he was going to go above and beyond and fix my hernia, they have been paining me for years, He was so kind, made me feel good about my body that was just slaughtered because of cancer, he was uplifting, gave me hope, and I'm crying my eyes out finding out that he has passed away, and then I won't have the pleasure of having him do my surgery, and the pleasure of having him on earth to Serve others with his blessings, and most of all I'm sad he won't be there for his wife and children anymore! But if I had to guess I would say that Dr. Flanigan is a wonderful father and a wonderful husband, and I'm sure he left a major imprint on his children, and his wife, and that he'll always be alive around them. God bless his wife and kids, I am so very sorry for your beautiful loss. Dr. Flanigan, Thomas Flanigan will be missed! I met with him for a half hour, and I've been trying for two days thinking about this. Beautiful obituary, beautiful man, outstanding surgeon. God bless his family! Please rest peacefully now. You did a lot of work while you were here, work of service for others, Dr. Flanigan! Love and blessings on you and your beautiful family ❤️

Lisa Carlin - May 06, 2021 at 11:17 PM

KR

“ Dr Flanigan was a great man. He would always stop and say hi to me at the desk and we would sit and talk about our sons playing Hockey together and against each other. I got the pleasure of watching his coffee and keeping warm as he took care of his patients.. I had the pleasure of knowing him and his wife through Hockeyand I enjoyed his company. He was never in a bad mood and would always talk about how much he loved his Amy and the kids. They always put a smile on his face. I am glade I had the chance to met you . You will always hold a place in my heart . Kelly Rister

Kelly Rister - May 06, 2021 at 07:22 PM

DD

“ I met Tom, Dr Flanigan, Tom....in 2015, when I came from U of M to work for him and Dr Gigena, running the front desk. I was nervous working for only the 2 docs, but then here comes a smiling ginger haired man, right up to me, shakes my hand, says I'm Tom Flanigan...Welcome! And that's how he remained! We became like family. Learned his style, music likes and dislikes, to ALWAYS interrupt him if his kids call for him! His kindness exuded him. He was so proud to talk about the swingset....THE SWINGSET! That he built! He talked about growing up "up north", his frat days, and how his big Daddy claws would come out if his children were treated badly! I loved him. When I watched him come out of his office to calm a dementia patient, who thought she was in church, and praying very loudly, he gently touched her shoulder, and guided her to her son, thanking her for her blessings. He told me he wanted to work for doctors without borders. Tom was the real deal. A true super hero. Joey, Evelyn, Sylvia, I truly hope that by reading all these posts helps in your healing....he was loved by so many, and loved each of you and your mom more than you know! Much Love, Donna Decker ❤️

Donna Decker - May 06, 2021 at 06:38 PM

KD

So very, very saddened to hear of Dr Tom's passing. He was my surgeon through my breast cancer journey in 2016. He was so supportive, kind and funny. Condolences to his family. RIP.

Karen Dudley - May 08, 2021 at 07:26 AM

CR

“ I am very sorry I didn't know this man, but I am a firm believer in writing your own obituary. Tom did an outstanding job. We should all be so lucky to know a guy like this. The loss must be enormous, but I agree with his thought about having a "great" run. I'm betting he left some very valuable people here. Craig

Craig - May 06, 2021 at 02:52 PM

VG

“ It's taken days to allow the denial to dissipate and come to accept you will no longer walk into the department with your man bag (which must be on a prep stand per Nicole) and Red Wings hat. Your evil genius laugh, sarcasm and harassment on how tight I was with money was received well, if not endearing. When you were required to have the entourage, I was deprived of hours of talks, Tone Loc radio and pitting spouse against spouse assisting you in the OR. Believe me, I heard it when I got home. Amy and the kids were so very lucky to have you for the short moment they did. We will take care of them for the treasures they are....promise. If they could only have heard how you spoke of them with pride, their hearts would burst with gratitude. I will prove to you someday that Dave is CHEAPER than me and if I ever get a dog (which I won't because I have no soul) I will lovingly name it Flanny. There is a great void in this world without The Ginger God and you will be missed despite your fabulous exit.

Until we meet again,
VG

Vicky Garber - May 06, 2021 at 11:02 AM

MA

“ Oh, cousin Tommy.
You got the whole world laughing with one last zinger. That was so you.
As your passing has bestowed the title of Meme Lord onto me, I promise I won't disappoint.
Tell your mom that I miss you both, and I'll bring a dish to the family dinner when it's my time.
Marissa (Missy) Collins

Marissa - May 06, 2021 at 08:02 AM



“ Dr. Flanigan knew he met his match when I compared a med student to Jon Snow. He laughed so hard it was awesome. That was my first meeting w/him. Needless to say we shared a few laughs and his honesty and compassion for others set him apart. He literally saved my life and I know I'm among MANY that can say that. We would talk about each having 3 kids and he loved being a Dad.
He gave my husband his personal cell phone and reassured him. Dr. Flanigan radiated Kindness. I'm beyond grateful that our paths crossed and I know you are bringing joy wherever you are.

Sarah Eberle - May 06, 2021 at 01:09 AM

BD

“ I will never forget Dr. Flanigan's kindness and will be forever grateful for his patience and compassion. I will miss him. He improved the lives of so many women by sharing his surgical talents and sound medical advice. And by listening - really listening - to us. I send his wife and children my deepest condolences.

Brandi Doniere - May 05, 2021 at 09:01 PM

DA

“ Amy & Family,

So very sad that someone so special was taken from you. So very glad that someone so special was part of your life & will be there in spirit for you forever.

Thoughts and Prayers.

Dan and Peggy LePage

danlepage - May 05, 2021 at 04:23 PM

KK

“ *Dr. Flanagan was my plastic surgeon after breast surgery. He put me at ease as soon as he walked into the room. He was so gentle and explained what he could do if I decided on reconstruction. That was in 2018. I'm fine thanks to Dr Flanagan s expert help and his warm and friendly staff. Thanks Dr Flanagan for all the people you helped. You will be someone I will never forget. Heaven has a new ginger, but we lost an incredible Dr. Husband, Father, Son and a funny kind human being. Love to you*

Kathy Schroeder Koevenig - May 05, 2021 at 11:57 AM

EJ

*Dear Family of Dr Thomas Flanigan,
I am one of the gazillions of patients he operated on. He was so awesome, I felt at ease in his presence and I think I fell in love with him at that very first appointment. He could read my feelings and was such a caring & loving guy. With my husband of 52 yrs and our daughter present, I asked if I could hug him, he said "Sure, I love hugs". I was in awe that he could correct my deep wound issue which was so scary, I call his expertise a miracle.*

He was so proud of his son playing hockey & shared with us that his family was planning on the building of a new home, he was personable and caring which is so refreshing with a doctor these days. He will be sorely missed by many. The family can be proud of his accomplishments and his loving spirit. You have my husband's & my deepest condolences.

Evelyn Janick

Evelyn Janick - May 07, 2021 at 12:07 PM

SB

“ I didn't know you..... in fact I'm from England and read your obituary on legacy.com via a newspaper article. You were the genuine article that touched so many lives, whether it be through laughter or your role as a Dr.

May you rest in peace.....and absolute love and strength to your family and friends at this difficult time.



Saira Binns - May 05, 2021 at 06:54 AM

PO

He was such a great doctor when I asked him a question he asked it was the first time a cancer patient had asked him that he didn't great job on me April 15 reconstructive surgery I am so proud and so blessed to have known him he truly help me get through this terrible terrible cancer he is gone way too soon

Penny Oneil - May 05, 2021 at 09:26 AM

PO

One of the best doctor I could talk to him he answered every cancer question like it was the first time he heard it he listen to me made me feel at ease I am so blessed that he did my operation April 15 and all went well I will truly miss him

Penny Oneil - May 05, 2021 at 09:27 AM

LH

“ It is with shock and great sadness that the word that Tom had passed struck me and it has taken a few days to be able to reflect on some thoughts about this wonderful human being. I first met Tom many years ago when the ProMedica Physician Group was recruiting surgeons with subspecialty training to expand our services. He arrived in my office in Toledo Ohio at 6:30am dressed in scrubs, white lab coat, one shoe cover on and clearly had been working all night without sleep. Being an anesthesiologist by training, I asked him what cases he was doing last night on call and he replied.. " alcohol and chain saws don't mix" He had spent the prior 6-7 hours reattaching a hand. I asked if his attending was with him and he just smiled and said. " no" As chief of trauma he was a key individual at his former institution and given his training as a surgeon, trauma fellowship and then plastic and reconstructive surgeon there were very few things he could not manage. Not only highly trained and Tom was very personable/easy to talk to and we had a great conversation about his education, experience in the army (including serving in army and in combat in Iraq), and his professional interests. He summed it up in a couple of phrases: " After seeing what I saw in Iraq, I want to spend the rest of my career putting people back together again. I am a soldier and will get done what the medical group needs me to do". He spent most of his time passionately talking about his wife, children and his desire to take care of them. A nice home with a yard for the kids to play, good schools, and maybe a lake cottage some day. His life and career were focused on family, his patients (who adored him), and enjoying life to his fullest. His annual Christmas letters gave great insight into his soul and were quite frankly hilarious at times. When you look at his photo and read his obituary, that is just the tip of the iceberg and gives us a hint of what a fabulous man he was. Obviously a great loss for his wife and children but he also leaves a giant hole in many hearts in the people who were fortunate enough to spend time with him. May God Bless you Tom and bring peace to your family.

Lee

*Lee Hammerling, MD
Chief Physician Executive, ProMedica Health System (retired)*

Lee Hammerling - May 05, 2021 at 04:56 AM

HW

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Tom in surgery residency. His wit always seemed to capture what everyone was thinking but not willing say out loud. His humor brought a great relief during the challenges of residency. I was shocked to read about his passing, but not shocked that his words words have made the national news outlets and touched strangers. His was a life well lived. Tom was smart enough to realize it. My deepest condolences to his family.*

Hale Wills

Hale Wills - May 04, 2021 at 11:40 PM

TG

“ *I didn't know Dr. Flanigan but I wish I had. I'm getting on in years now and suspect that I'll soon be embarking on the same mission that Dr. Flanigan has already undertaken. I hope I will meet him on the other side. He has already dampened my anxiety by his positive attitude. I hope he will make "time" to introduce me to Elvis. RIP my friend. A life well lived.*

tim goodsell - May 04, 2021 at 10:40 PM

PG

“ *I worked at Montcalm Community College. Tom was a real character. Of course I remember him. Rest In Peace my friend. Blessings to your wife and children. Pam Grice, Admissions MCC*

Pam Grice - May 04, 2021 at 08:34 PM

JM

“ *A bright Shining Star. You will be missed.
Jim and Alaina Meister*

James and Alaina Meister - May 04, 2021 at 07:35 PM

JD

“ *Without my time with Dr. Flanigan, I may not be where I am today.
His humor and guidance during my surgery rotation taught me much
I still use today. His death is a huge loss to so many!*

Joy Dunn - May 04, 2021 at 02:50 PM

AM

“ *I never met Dr. Flanigan but clearly he was a good man, father,
doctor and soldier. His wit jumped off the page as I read his last
mission statement. Thanks for reminding us how to live life with
humor and happiness. RIP COL Flanigan*

P.S. please tell Elvis and Kenny hi for me.

Army LTC(R) McKeithen - May 04, 2021 at 02:44 PM

NM

“ I never met Dr. Flanigan. I just saw a link to his obituary on a news aggregation site.

But it strikes me that many in the military face death, and some do so bravely. This man obviously knew he was going to die, and mustered more courage, love, wit, and equanimity than most could on any battlefield. The world has lost one heck of a guy. If you want to read a bunch of strangers' reactions to his obituary, here's the link:

<https://www.fark.com/comments/11389266/The-Ginger-God-of-Surgery-Shenanigans-has-left-building>

To the family - even strangers mourn his loss, I hope that brings you some pride and comfort.

Nesher G. Asner, MD - May 04, 2021 at 01:00 PM

SF

“ *Dr. Flanigan, I hope you find my husband, a psychiatrist, who also left for his cosmic mission 18 days before you. I am sure you will both have amazing conversations. To the Flanigans left behind, time will get us all through the immense pain left behind by losing a spouse and a father. I will keep you in my prayers.*

Sue Ferrara - May 04, 2021 at 06:49 AM

TT

“ Dr. Flanigan was an intelligent, funny, compassionate and caring doctor who truly had a commitment to helping bring his patients back to themselves. I’m speaking from my own perspective but when a woman loses her breasts her sense of Femininity and sensuality is threatened. Dr. Flanigan understood that and it was important to him that he create a look that was as close to what I wanted as possible. I was fairly large before my surgery and unfortunately the insurance company wouldn’t approve my G-cup implants but I have solid perky C cups or as I call them in my head (boy boobs).

I remember joking with him if the government approved a larger size to “call me“ LOL! Because a sister would like to have her G’s back LOL! He laughed and said ok

To me, Dr. Flanigin was like Superman. Nobody wants to hear that their super hero died but I pray that he knew how amazing he was to so many especially me.

Tunisia Thompson - May 03, 2021 at 10:29 AM

AS

“ Dr. F,

You meant so very much to me. The world is dimmer without you in it. I would like to thank you for your kindness and compassion in my breast cancer journey. I think I was one of your biggest handfuls. Thank you for: when you offered to buy me a pony to stop crying, checked me out because well I needed to go home for my sanity, the comfort you gave through the multiple mishaps, and being a human as a doctor. A ginger gem, who I saw in his scrubs even at the Christmas tree farm.

I truly hope your family finds strength in this time. The countless hours away that you spent in those scrubs were probably hard but wow it was making a difference. You made a dent in the world for sure.

*So much love,
Andrea (Jeremy too)*

Andrea Sillitoe - May 03, 2021 at 03:25 AM

LT

“ *You have been a blessing from God. I will always remember the faith and trust that I had in you when I was going through breast cancer and found my reconstruction. I was a tuff one I know, but you never gave up on me. I will never forget you and everything you did for me.*

We will be praying for your family and I'm sure they know you how terrific you were.

Your patient,

*L. Tuttle
W. Graham
B. Tuttle*

Lisa Tuttle - May 02, 2021 at 11:46 PM

GF

“ Our deepest sympathy to Tommy’s family, colleagues and patients. He always gave 120% in everything he did, he worked hard and strived to be the best. From a skinny little ginger with that crooked smile, you will be remembered for the man you became a son, brother, Uncle, Doctor, friend, husband and Dad. Thank you for your service and God’s speed...RIP.

Gary & Deb Fountain - May 02, 2021 at 09:55 PM

JC

“ I am still in shock. I am very grateful to say I am one of his patients. He is and always will be the best! I salute you Dr. Flanigan, thank you for your service. My condolences to his family.

Julie Crapsey - May 02, 2021 at 07:16 PM

MF

“ Dr. Flannigan was a caring and gentle man. What a terrific lose. Love to his entire family.

MaryEllen Futrell - May 02, 2021 at 12:18 PM

VS

“ I am sad to say I didn’t get to know Thomas but he sounds like an amazing man.He lived his life in such a way I hope I have done half as much as he has given such joy to others. God speed on his next journey.

Vicki Sulaica - May 02, 2021 at 09:54 AM

EP

“ Tom was my Fraternity brother at NMU, we went through the same "hell week" together and I'm in total shock. I've viewed his posts on facebook over the years and always smiled when he was either repelling off a side of a building or showing his son playing hockey with some sort of comical comment. Im saddened that I didn't stay in touch with him over the years, but reading his obituary, (as Tom always did) he made me laugh and reflect a little on my own life. You were one in a million Tom. My thoughts are with him and his family. Rest in Peace brother.
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Eric Page - May 01, 2021 at 10:59 PM

KS

“ Dr. Flanigan was my rah, rah fighting Irish through my cancer and reconstruction. He fought for and supported his patients and went beyond what the medical field "allowed" him or suggested he should or should not do, by creating a support group, giving of his time, sharing what was new in the field of breast cancer and treatments....or just letting ladies vent. Dr. Flanigan, you gave of yourself. Prayers to his wife, children and family as they find their way through this tragedy and how to move on without his physical presence. You were one of a kind Dr. Flanigan.
Breast Friend KS

Karen Schlichting - May 01, 2021 at 08:14 PM

BP

“ When Tom was my Veteran's Work Study, when he first began his higher ed studies at Montcalm Community College, he said to me. Becky there was someone at my high school who told me I would never make anything of myself. He told me "I'm going to show them". He said they maybe had reasons to say that because he was always in trouble in school (imagine that 😊). Well... Tom did show them!!!! I speak to high school students about the fact they can go to college no matter what people say to them, I always use Tom as my example! What a success story Tom Flanigan was!!!! He was very special to me!

Becky Powell - May 01, 2021 at 07:53 PM

CD

“ While I didn't know Dr. Flanigan too personally the medical students I work with adored him. They always fought to get to work with him. He would send me their evaluations and he never had a harsh thing to say about anyone. I always smiled reading his comments. I could tell he was passionate about teaching and he made my job ten times easier because of that. He will be sorely missed by many. Huge loss for medical education. My deepest condolences to the family.

Claudia Davis - May 01, 2021 at 06:15 PM

DW

“ He was such a great guy. Our last conversation was when I was in the hospital and I greeted him with a Hello stranger and not missing a beat he replies if you wanted to see me you didn't have to get put into the hospital... we both laughed and made sure my treatment was going the way he wanted it to.

He will be missed and has left a huge hole in the world and in everyone's life who got to know him.

My condolences to the family.

Dianna Wilczynski - May 01, 2021 at 06:14 PM

TW

“ I'm a Surgical tech at Toledo Hospital, Dr. Flanigan was a doctor I would work with often we had multiple conversations all the time for years, he gave me advice as a single mother that I will take with me forever, I just want the family to know and give them the thank you I never got the chance to give him, he always uplifted my Spirit when I saw him with a great joke and gave me great positive advice and never sugarcoated always gave me the things I needed to hear. He made an impact on my sons life without ever meeting him. We loved him, he will be truly missed my condolences to the family and you're in my prayers.

Tanisha Williams - May 01, 2021 at 05:18 PM

DS

“ I have met Tom in residency years back. I am speechless. My deepest condolences to the family. Good soul gone too soon indeed. RIP my dear friend.

Dmitri Samoilov - May 01, 2021 at 05:14 PM

CC

“ *Flanagan was simply Flanagan..a ginger always on top of his game & he would tell you so. I had the pleasure of I'm as a resident at DRH..his wit, sass & skill will not be seen again..*

Colleen champine - May 01, 2021 at 04:55 PM

JS

“ *Tom and I were in residency together. He always found a way to bring humor and light into the rigor of surgical residency. A kind soul gone too soon. My deepest sympathies to his family.*

Jerry Stassinopoulos - May 01, 2021 at 04:49 PM

MB

“ *I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Flanigan at TTH for years. He was always friendly and sweet. I have nothing but, fond memories of him. Bless his soul. My condolences to the family.*

Melissa Bagrowski - May 01, 2021 at 04:36 PM

BD

“ *Thom was the first resident I had worked with at Harper Hospital when I started in 2008. He showed me the ropes and welcomed me to the team. He made a pretty nerve wracking time a lot more bearable. With a sense of humor like no other he was able to put people at ease. We missed his presence after he completed his residency and will continue to do so now. Thanks for who you were Thom. My deepest condolences to his family.*

Bob Dario - May 01, 2021 at 03:46 PM

LT

I will never forget the call I received at 5:45 May 26, 2021 saying that my surgery with Dr. Flanigan has been canceled due to a family emergency. I knew something was wrong with him, because that Thursday when I had a Pre-Op with Dr. Flanigan, my mom looked at him and asked him, "are you feeling ok",? He answered her yes, just tired. He loved hearing my mom of 79 years, speak due to her WWa accent. He loved that southern draw.

You brought hope and happiness to my life by encouraging me that "you got this", don't worry. I always believed in you and I'm so saddened by your passing. Much love to your family and lots and lots of prayer.

*Your patient,
Lisa T.*

Lisa Tuttle - May 02, 2021 at 11:29 PM

FB

I first met Tom when he was interviewing for his first post residency position as a plastic surgeon after finishing his fellowship in Detroit. I remember being particularly impressed with his training and discipline as well as his military background.

Dr Flanigan accepted the position as ProMedica's first plastic surgeon and worked and trained with me for the next few years. We worked together on a number of very challenging cases.

I was and will always be impressed and respectful of his work ethic and dedication to his patients.....and most especially his devotion to his wife Amy and children despite an incredibly demanding and time intensive schedule and profession.

He was truly the quintessential family man.

I was also so impressed with Tom's keen wit and sense of humor...he was never one for pretense or politics.

His much anticipated yearly Christmas letter said it all.

In remembering our long hours working together I am reminded of the Operation Smile quote....'the greatest bonds of friendship are forged while in the service to others'.

I will especially miss you Dr Flanigan...you were truly one of a kind!

Our prayers, love and support go out to Amy, children and family.

Frank Barone

Frank Barone - May 03, 2021 at 07:51 AM

AB

Dr Flanagan say hi to Bonnie Legree when you see her in Heaven when you get there, she always looked forward to seeing you.

Anita Bedacht - May 05, 2021 at 01:51 AM