



Tom Dale Davis

March 5, 1942 - January 1, 2026

Tom Davis was born on March 5th, 1942, to Monte and Eliza Davis in Wellington, CO. When Tom was young, the family moved to LaPorte, CO, where he grew up on the farm and graduated from Cache La Poudre High School. Tom ran track and played basketball & football, playing tight end on the state champion football team. After graduation, Tom attended Colorado State University where he earned degrees in biology and physical education. He then earned a master's degree in education.

Tom's first teaching/coaching job was in Big Springs, NE, where he taught biology and coached football, boys' basketball, and track. Tom accepted a junior high and high school teaching position in Sturgis, SD, where he coached football, boys' basketball, and track. In Sturgis, Tom met Jane, and they were married seven months later. They were a remarkable team for 55 years. While in Sturgis, sons Chad and Chris were born.

Tom had the opportunity to return to Northern Colorado in 1977, teaching and coaching at Poudre High School in Fort Collins. While there, he coached boys' basketball, football, track, and girls' basketball – where he brought in a bonus daughter, Penny. Two of his high jumpers earned a total of three state championships. Teaching and coaching at PHS was the joy of Tom's career. He had great pride in the school and the science department, and was a finalist for Colorado Teacher of the Year.

When Tom retired, the Poudre School District needed a manager for French Field – the district athletic field – on short notice. They contacted Tom who knew the facility, sports, and coaching community, and asked if he'd manage the field on an interim basis. That interim position lasted 20 years; Tom served as the field manager until he was 80 years old! (When Wellington High School opened, they asked Tom to open that field to which he reminded them that he was 80 years old!)

Tom will be remembered for his warmth, kindness, integrity, silliness, and commitment to lifting up those around him. Living out his faith was always more important than talking about it. Family was his highest priority. Attendance at his children's games and performances was non-negotiable, and the same held true for his grandchildren. Tom always drove the kids' car on family trips where he listened to music at top volume. His stories were the stuff of legend! Tom earned the trust and respect of everyone he knew, and he knew he was nothing without his wife, Jane. Tom is now at rest in God's care with his son, Chad, and his family is grateful they are together.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Monte and Eliza Davis, his 13 brothers and sisters, and his beloved son, Chad. His legacy lives on in his son, Chris (with wife, Rachel) and daughter, Penny (with husband, Steve), grandchildren Celia, Brennan, and Wil (with wife, Cheyenne), and great-grandson, Crew.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 23. 1:00 PM (MT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
2000 S Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins,, CO 80525

Tribute Wall

WC

“ *What an amazing human and wonderful neighbor. I remember how he used to drive around telling the kids he would take them to poudre if they didn't want to go to rocky because poudre was better. always a smile on his face. He raised 2 wonderful boys. Sending lots of love. - wendy cohen*

wendy cohen - February 04 at 10:23 AM

JM

“ *Sending so much love and prayers to you, Jane and Chris! You and Tom (Mr. Davis) were highly respected as teachers and friends to all! I remember babysitting for you and how honored I felt when I was asked by Mr. Davis. We both moved away in 1977 and lost touch. I have thought about you and the kids over the years and wish I would have stayed in touch. Tom was a remarkable man with an infectious personality and a smile that lit up a room. I will be praying for peace and comfort for you in the days to come. Much love to both of you! 🙏❤️🙏*

Julie Masterson - January 26 at 06:37 PM

DS

“ *Mr Davis was my teacher the first year he came to teach in Sturgis. He was a kind man, and I'd never seen anyone walk so tall and straight! I can still see him. My sympathy to the family.*

Daryla Brink Sandy - January 26 at 05:18 PM

JH

“ Dear Jane, Chris and family,
Our deepest condolences to you and all your family. The first
memory I have of Tom is him teaching me how to throw a football.
He was having dinner at our parent’s house in Sturgis.

Jane, Sharon, and Susan. (The Getsgo Girls)

jane harty - January 22 at 07:58 PM

JA

“ Dear Davis Family,
I'm so sorry for your loss!

Tom was a wonderful man in many ways: as a husband, father,
teacher, neighbor, and friend. His contributions in life were many
and appreciated by everyone he knew. He had a beautiful smile that
lit up the room wherever he went. He set great examples for all of
us.

Take comfort in knowing that now he is with Chad in their heavenly
home.

Praying for you during this difficult time.

Lovingly,
Janie Arnold

Janie Arnold - January 19 at 11:12 AM

TB

“ I am so grateful to have gotten to know my great Uncle Tom. My grandfather Noel was his oldest half brother. My grandfather died before I was born and I never got to know Uncle Tom until a few years ago, and I am so happy that I was able to meet him and the rest of the family. Aunt Jane and Chris my heart is sad for you and I give you my deepest love and condolences.

Hugs,
Tammy

Tammy Bourne - January 14 at 11:46 PM

SP

“ Our sympathy to the Davis family! Tom was always an upbeat person, always kind and caring for others. We enjoyed knowing Tom and his family during our time on Bennington Circle.

Stacy Poncelow - January 14 at 07:48 AM

NO

“ Heartfelt condolences to the Davis Family.
It was a wonderful experience working with Tom for 15 years at PHS.
R.I.P.

Norma Wallin



Norma - January 13 at 10:31 AM

NW

“ Worked with Tom for 15 years at PHS. RIP



Norma Wallin - January 12 at 10:28 PM

SS

“ Than you for being my colleague and always having a smile. steve schell PHS

Stephen Schell - January 11 at 12:29 PM

SS

“ Will miss him at Saturday evening church.
T

suzie Smith - January 05 at 08:56 PM

OR

When Tom took care of French Field, he was a big help to me in my efforts to time track meets.

Oliver Richardson - January 11 at 04:46 PM

CL

What a great man. As a coach and teacher at Poudre High School, he helped many students grow into adults during his career. Afterwards, his work at French Field continued to help athletes from all the district high schools and his coaching friends from other schools. I will miss him and I thank him for all of his help and friendship. God bless you Tom. Rest in peace.
Craig Luckasen

Craig Luckasen - January 13 at 06:53 PM

LS

In Memory of Tom Davis

For roughly the past ten years, I shared Monday mornings—and about 500 hours—of coffee and doughnuts with Tom, Paul, and Jim. Those hours were never rushed. They were filled with conversations that wandered from sports to religion to family to politics, and no topic was ever off limits. Over time, we came to know one another deeply. And in all those conversations, Tom revealed himself as one of the finest people I have ever known.

As I approach ninety, I look back on a life blessed with many mentors. Tom was one of them. To me, a mentor is someone who has a long-term, positive influence on another person's life. Tom lived that definition every day as he taught and coached hundreds of students, shaping them with patience, humor, and quiet wisdom.

I also came to know Jane when we took Stephen Minister training together. I'll never forget walking out of Ridley's with Tom one day and telling him that when he married Jane, he really hit it out of the park. Tom flashed that big smile of his and said, "I sure did." I suspect Jane felt the same way about him.

Tom and I both came from large families with agricultural roots, and through him I learned a great deal about LaPorte, Sturgis, coaching, teaching, and the extended families that shaped him.

As Lutherans, we shared a similar outlook on faith—and on life. Tom once said to me, "We may think we are in charge, but it is really God who is in charge." That simple truth stayed with me, as did so many of his words.

I will always cherish those Monday mornings with Tom, Paul, Jim, and the occasional visitor. They were ordinary hours made extraordinary by friendship, honesty, and the steady presence of a man who made the world better simply by being in it.

Lloyd

Lloyd Spawn - January 14 at 05:56 PM

MS

*Jane and Chris,
Although I didn't know Tom well, I want to express my sympathy to you both and your families. I am sorry for your loss.
Mary Solomon*

Mary Solomon - January 18 at 10:11 AM

NW

Mr. Davis had been my biology teacher in Sturgis, South Dakota. I remember him as kind, caring, and inclusive. Truly, he was an excellent role model for his students and for aspiring teachers alike. Mr. Davis was skilled in making biology accessible and fascinating. And perhaps most importantly, he made all his students feel welcome and valued. Teachers as kind and inspiring as Mr. Davis live on in the memory of those blessed to have been their students. I send my condolences to his family.

Nancy Marie Wood - January 21 at 01:40 PM