



Thomas F. Hartnett

June 25, 1945 - August 28, 2012

Albany-Thomas F. Hartnett, 67, of Albany died peacefully on August 28, 2012 in Boston following complications during treatment for cancer.

Mr. Hartnett was born in Bronx, New York to the late Elizabeth and Cornelius Hartnett. He attended Cardinal Hayes High School and graduated from Farleigh Dickenson University with a B.S. in 1972. Tom received his Juris Doctorate degree from Seton Hall University Law School in 1976.

Since 1991, Tom served as Of Counsel to Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. in Albany and was Co-Chair of the firm's Government Relations practice. Tom represented a number of major public and private sector labor management entities and key health care providers.

Tom began his career with the New York Telephone Company serving as a union representative for the Communications Workers of America and in management positions in personnel and labor relations.

From 1983 to 1987 Tom served as director of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations. As the state's chief labor negotiator, he conducted collective negotiations with public employee unions representing over 200,000 state workers in twelve bargaining units. He negotiated health insurance benefits for more than 400,000 state and local government employees,

introducing various innovations in cost containment. During his tenure, Tom designed and successfully negotiated implementation of the state's first major restructuring of its health insurance program.

Governor Mario M. Cuomo named Tom New York's Commissioner of Labor in 1987, a position he held until 1991. As Commissioner, Tom reformed New York State's child labor laws, implemented Community Service Centers throughout New York State and increased New York's Minimum Wage and Unemployment Insurance benefits.

While Commissioner, Tom was able to mediate a settlement between the New York Post and its workers that enabled the newspaper to continue operations in 1990. He also successfully mediated a settlement in the lengthy Long Island Railroad strike to restore service to 100,000 daily commuters.

Tom was appointed to the U.S. Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship. He held the position during the Clinton and Bush Presidencies. During his term, Mr. Hartnett guided the Committee in providing recommendations to the Secretary on issues related to apprenticeship including comprehensive revisions of the Federal Regulations governing apprenticeship programs in the United States.

Mr. Hartnett was appointed to and served on the Board of Directors of the Albany County Airport Authority and the Arsenal Business and Technology Partnership. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, serving most recently as Chair of the Committee on Training and Education.

Mr. Hartnett testified before the Congress of the United States and the New York Legislature on a wide range of employment and labor-related issues.

Additionally, Tom has been covered in print media and has appeared on local, national and international radio and television programs, including the Today Show, Prime Time Live and BBC.

Tom is survived by his wife, Nancy Hodes of Albany, NY.

Tom was the loving father of four children, Jeffrey Hartnett (Seema) of Mechanicville, NY, Tricia Hartnett (Leon Spath) of Voorheesville, NY, Christopher Hartnett of Atlanta, GA and Matthew Hartnett of Atlanta, GA. Tom was the step-father of Liz Hodes of Brooklyn, NY and Amanda Hodes of Boston, MA. He is also survived by three beloved granddaughters, Madelyn Spath, and Priya and Shayley Hartnett and his five nieces and nephews.

Funeral services Saturday, September 1, 2012 at 11:00 am in the Parish of Mater Christi, Albany.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call Friday, August 31, 2012 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

Interment Albany Rural Cemetery.

To leave the family a special message on their guest book, obtain directions or a memory card, or share a photo with them, please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

The family will be receiving friends and family at their home, 433 State Street, Albany, NY from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday, September 1st.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions be made in Tom's honor to the Tom Hartnett Team for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America at

the following link: <http://pages.lightthenight.org/ga/Atlanta11/CHartnett>

Previous Events

Service

SEP 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas F. Hartnett*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I had the good fortune to work at GOER when Tom was the Director. I was always impressed with his ability to manage and to take on the problems and issues that had to be dealt with. I fondly remember his great sense of humor and his masterful leadership skills. He was such a great person to work for. I learned so much from him.*

God bless you Tom. Rest in peace.##imported-begin##Mike Roche##imported-end##

September 03, 2012 at 09:04 PM



“ *Nancy: Margaret and I are so sorry for your loss. Tom was a wonderful human being--he was a common man with an uncommon touch; he could travel in many circles and felt comfortable in any of them--even more importantly, he made you feel comfortable when you were around him. A man of many accomplishments but his great love was for his family. He and I often commiserated about our daughters and the trials and tribulations and pride in helping them grow up. I will always remember Tom and that stupid "pig with a wooden leg "joke--he had such a sense of humor. We shall all miss him and we will keep him and you and the family in our prayers.##imported-begin##larry scanlon##imported-end##*

September 03, 2012 at 01:09 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to Nancy and the rest of the family. We will always remember Tom's quiet kindness the day he rushed to our house to help out when one of the neighborhood children was seriously hurt. Tom was a wonderful neighbor and we will miss him very much.##imported-begin##Donna Young and Peter Halewood##imported-end##

September 01, 2012 at 11:11 AM



“ This is a tremendous loss for Tom's family and friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing him or working with him. My condolences and best wishes go out to Nancy, the rest of Tom's family, and to all of those who are affected by his untimely passing. He will live on in our hearts and memories, and you are all in our prayers.##imported-begin##A. Thomas Levin##imported-end##

September 01, 2012 at 10:39 AM



“ Dear Nancy and Tom's Children,

You do not know me, but I was Executive Deputy and Acting Commissioner of Labor under George Pataki, immediately following Tom. He was wonderful to me and I came to rely on his judgement and wisdom in learning the job. He was an honorable and thoughtful man and I will not forget him.

Jim Dillon##imported-begin##Jim Dillon##imported-end##

August 31, 2012 at 11:34 PM



“ Jeff, Seema and family:

*We were so sorry about your Dad's passing. He was a great guy!
Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Linda & Herb Chorbajian##imported-begin##Linda and Herb
Chorbajian##imported-end##*

August 31, 2012 at 06:21 PM



“ Our heartfelt condolences to the entire Hartnett family during this
incredibly sad time.

*Tom was such a dynamic, charismatic, upbeat and caring man. I will
fondly remember the numerous compliments, encouragement and
kind words he offered me over the years.*

He will be missed by so many, but never, ever forgotten.

*In deepest sympathy,
Frank J. Marchese Jr. and Family
Albany, New York##imported-begin##Frank J. Marchese
Jr##imported-end##*

August 31, 2012 at 02:25 PM



“ I was very sadden to hear of Tom's passing. I have been retired for nine years now and was fortunate to run into Tom a couple of years ago at a local resturant. I told Tom that having worked for the Federal government for 32 years and meeting many leaders, I came to one conclusion and that he was the best administrator I had ever had a chance to work with. I meant that then and I mean that today.

Rest in peace my friend,

Jim##imported-begin##Jim Hartman##imported-end##

August 31, 2012 at 01:02 PM



“ Nancy,
Sorry beyond words for your loss. Tom's wit, intellect, compassion and great kindness will be remembered by all whose lives he touched. Our heartfelt condolences.

Linda and Robin Rapaport##imported-begin##Linda Rosenblatt Rapaport##imported-end##

August 31, 2012 at 12:52 PM



“ *Management and labor has lost a dear friend. Tom was well respected by both. A kind gentle man, his uncanny way of talking and making the peace between both sides in only a way Tom could. I well remember his keen look and you knew he meant business. Rest in peace and know your memory lives on in those that knew you. God Bless the family, peace be with you.##imported-begin##Nick LaMorte##imported-end##*

August 30, 2012 at 09:09 PM



“ Tom Hartnett was a compassionate and charismatic visionary. It was a privilege to have known him during my lifetime. He will be sorely missed.

My condolences to the family.##imported-begin##Elizabeth Ortiz##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 09:03 PM



“ I am so saddened to learn of Tom's death - it was my pleasure to know him and work for and with him during his tenure as Commissioner of Labor. He was innovative, energetic, progressive, humorous and down-to-earth. He was delightful to work with and we always enjoyed his visits to Buffalo. My deepest condolences to all of his family-may you be comforted by wonderful memories of your time together.##imported-begin##Ramona L. Gallagher##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 04:05 PM



“ I am saddened by the passing of Tom Hartnett. He has been a good friend. I so enjoyed taling with Tom about his growing up in the Bronx right behind the old Yankee Stadium His knowlege astounded me and set me straight many times with Union issues. He was a great man and a very kind individual. I grieve with the family and hope they will be comforted. Rest in Peace my friend.

Flo##imported-begin##Flo Tripi. Western Region President, CSEA##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 03:37 PM



“ Dear Tricia and Family, I am truly sorry for your loss. Buffalo Psychiatric Center sends it's regards to you and your family. Pam##imported-begin##Pamela Esposito##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 02:18 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the Hartnett and Hodes families. I worked directly for Tom for several years at MSEK. He taught me many lessons of the "ins and outs" of politics and always had a great story to tell to go along with his advice - and, he was the best storyteller in Albany!

His children and his wife Nancy meant the world to him and I know he will be missed greatly.

Sincerely,

Julie Ruttan##imported-begin##Julie Ruttan##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 01:55 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to all. Tom will be remembered as a great guy and a good friend to our family.##imported-begin##McCarthy family##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 12:20 PM



“ Tom was always the voice of reason and the pillar of strength when he walked into a room. A big man, yet never intimidated anyone, and made everyone in his company feel welcome and respected. He was a rare breed and will be sorely missed by his friends, colleagues and family. His legacy will live on through his accomplishments on behalf of labor and working families.##imported-begin##Marty Glennon##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 11:17 AM



“ Jeff, and family my thoughts and prayers to you at this time of sorrow.
Sweet in our memory.##imported-begin##Lori Agnew##imported-end##

August 30, 2012 at 10:59 AM