



Thomas "Tom" Anthony Ziembovic

November 18, 1963 - January 12, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Thomas Ziembovic, a loving father, husband, and cherished member of our community, who passed away on Sunday, January 12th, 2025 at the age of 61. Born in Lebanon on November 18th, 1963, he was a dedicated Business Agent and President of Teamsters Local 247, known for being incredibly caring toward everyone around him and the hardest worker you'll ever meet. Survivors include his beloved wife, Liz, his daughter, Zoe, his brother, Mike, and other beloved family members. Tom was preceded in death by his mother, Louise, his father, Thomas, and his brother, Mike. He will be deeply missed for his vibrant personality and his willingness to care for and help others. A celebration of life gathering will be held at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline on Saturday, January 25th from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in his name be made to the Detroit Phoenix Center, 1420 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226. To leave a memory you have of Tom, to sign his online guestbook or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

JAN **25**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services

301 E Michigan Ave

Saline, MI 48176

(734) 429-9760

rbfhsaline@hotmail.com

<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Tribute Wall

MG

“ *My prayers go out to Tom's family you will be missed you were the best rip*

Mike gunn - February 15, 2025 at 05:14 PM

LM

“ *It was so sad to hear about Tom.
I was a Teamster for 45 years and a member of local 247 for twenty-five, so I knew Tom a long time.
As an example of tom's generous nature, I can remember calling him needing advice on labor law for a relative who worked in a non-union environment.
Tom took the time to address my questions and was very helpful.
A couple times I called the hall on the weekend expecting to leave him a message, then get back with him during the week so we could talk.
But Tom had the calls forwarded to his cell phone and he picked up and we talked at length about everything... This was a Sunday, and he didn't have to take my call, but he was out walking, and we had an excellent conversation.
When I retired, he hosted my wife and me at the hall, and we showed her around that historic place, full of memories.
This is the kind of person Tom was, and I felt like I had a friend at the union office.*

Larry Mount

Larry Mount - February 04, 2025 at 07:14 AM

DR

“ *The impact of the loss of Tom is beyond measure. He was a truly great friend and an amazing person. His devotion to Liz, Zoe, and all of his family, while still being one of the hardest working and most professional individuals I have ever known, sets a standard that we can only hope to ever achieve. I am heartbroken for Liz, Zoe, Mike, and all his family and friends. The only solace I can find right now is to focus on supporting Tom’s family and live by his example. Maybe one more thing... to channel Tom and always respectfully just tell it like it is. He was always compassionate, while being direct and candid at the same time. I love you brother and you will be missed.*

Don Rogers - January 27, 2025 at 12:03 PM

JR

“ I've been close with Tommy for over 20yrs, I met him as a steward when he first came to local 247 and I really got to know the kind of Person Tommy was during the toughest times for alot of us, I got to really see how hard he fought for so many of us and are family's, so many have know idea what he was able to do for so many, during those times we're alot of nervous families, he had members bring their spouses to a meeting just to reassure them what was happening so the weren't scared from all the noise, not many people knows those things about Tommy because it wasn't about accolades or bragging, that's who he was, after those times we became closer and are talks went more towards family and life, sorry guys n gals as much as Tommy truly loved his members, we were a DISTANT second to his Family Liz and Zoe, most of our conversations over the last 15yrs turned much more about life and family, you talk about a Proud Dad, pretty much by the end of most of our conversations I'm convinced Zoe is the greatest child to walk on this planet. He always said she made being a parent easy, Proud dad! So all those years I know Tommy made me a better person and this World could use a whole lot more Tommy Z's, Love ya bro, always will.

Jim Ruffrage - January 24, 2025 at 08:48 PM

JP

“ Tommy Z was my adversary. I have been a management labor attorney for 43 years. My job was busting unions. A few years ago we found ourselves across the bargaining table from each other, in the midst of particularly volatile strike against the employer I was representing. I was determined to bust that strike and teach this “young” teamster a lesson! I was immediately struck by his calm demeanor. His skill in navigating interpersonal relations was uncanny. I quickly came to respect his intellect, sense of fairness and professional demeanor. Never in my 43 years in this stressful and often antagonistic business have I been more impressed with an adversary. As you would expect... knowing Tommy Z...we became fast friends, worked closely to resolve the strike and the contract . In fact , when my daughter, who has her PHd as a nurse anesthetist in Traverse City found herself in a position requiring she start a union for the 37 CRNA’s, I worked with Tommy to have him represent that union. They are now all proud teamsters thanks to Tommy Z , with remarkable benefits, wages, etc. he has made a difference in each of their lives. I will never forget him.

JAMES PARKS - January 24, 2025 at 02:01 PM

CH

James - and that exemplifies what Tom was all about - thank you for sharing.

Chuck Harple - January 27, 2025 at 06:23 PM

SH

“ I am one of Tom's neighbors. He walked everyday, many times at the same time I was walking with my dog. He always waved, smiled and many time we stopped and talked. He was so proud of Liz and Zoe. I just miss seeing him walk by our house. Love and prayers to Liz and Zoe
Sigrid Hermon

Sigrid Hermon - January 23, 2025 at 04:44 PM

SH

“ We are deeply saddened by Tom's untimely passing. On behalf of SRM Concrete, please know that our hearts are with you during this incredibly difficult time. Tom was not just a colleague but a friend, and his presence will be missed by all who knew him. We are grateful for the time we had with him and will always carry his memory with us. with deepest sympathy, your SRM concrete family.

Shelly - January 22, 2025 at 05:58 PM

KF

“ I truly enjoyed working with Tom (Tommy Z) and he will certainly be missed. We had worked together for many years and Tom was always very courteous and respectful to me and the Central States Contract Department. He was very helpful to the Pension Fund and to me, and we all appreciate his efforts in serving his Local's membership. My deepest condolences to his family and Local 247.

Karl Lewis - Central States Funds - January 21, 2025 at 02:46 PM

JG

“ Tommy was a caring and dedicated man to his profession as a business agent. Although I sat on the other side of the table, we both believed that every man, woman and child deserved a home, transportation, food on the table, education and leisure time for a good and productive life. I will certainly miss him even though I have not had the ability to work with him in the past 12 years. I did have the opportunity to negotiate with him in the prior 20 years. You were a great man, and I thank God for your talent. May God embrace you for your devotion to Humanity.

Jim Gendron - January 20, 2025 at 11:32 AM

CO

“ We are so sorry to hear about Tom's passing, and on behalf of NorthStar Anesthesia, we offer our sincere condolences to his family, friends and Teamsters colleagues.

Cole Ondrasek - January 17, 2025 at 11:41 AM

DB

“ Tom was dedicated to his service into his members in local 247. I spent 43 years in local 247 and by far Tom fought for the best contracts and the best outcome for his members. I could stop by the union hall and talk to him about anything and he always gave me clear straight cut answers which I knew he was a man of integrity. Thank you for all the years of that wonderful service time may you rest in peace in your eternal home.

Dan Bertossi - January 17, 2025 at 10:46 AM

“ Tom Ziembovic exemplified Leadership. Intelligence. Compassion. Honesty. Moral Integrity. Friendship. Brotherhood and Sisterhood. Always, always doing the right thing, even if it cost him personally. Tom's fierce support of his members was only second to his support for his friends and most importantly his family.

I can not tell you the first time I met Tommy because it did not go well. But what I can tell you is that we grew closer than I could have ever imagined. I consider Tom my brother.

I had two disagreements with Tommy in our 38 year friendship. One where I came back and said he was right. The other him where he came back and said he was wrong. Well as it turned out he was right on both disagreements. All he could do was hug it out and say don't worry about it.

I was tasked by his and my GP, at the time, to select people for a task force - to find the best of the best, the moral compasses of our union leadership - to draft and create guidelines so members would walk a straight line and stay out of trouble. When I selected Tommy I was asked, "Why choose Tom Ziembovic, Tom isn't even the principal officer?" I said, "Tom has had great teachers and he took from them a sense of honor that will always be present." I added that "Tommy is always playing three dimensional chess while others, our audience included, were playing checkers!" To this day I marvel at how many people from that committee and leadership went by the wayside and there was Tommy - top of the class. Always exhibiting the utmost conduct befitting the best of the best. Though not rising because Tom was morally unbendable. Doing what he loved at all times. Tommy never went along to get along. Tommy always did the right thing which proved to be lonely at times, but he never saw it as such.

Teamster members, let me just say that when it was unpopular to take a certain position on pension reform, Tommy stood tall and defended the right position for the right outcome even when that

past administration was playing foolish games. A true leader. I was never more proud to call him my friend. This is just one example of hundreds. Luckily, pension reform happened and while success has a thousand fathers, there were only a few who from day one took the position that it needed to be fixed for the members and not worrying if it would cost him his career. ALWAYS putting the members best interests ahead of his. I was so proud to watch you in action, Tom.

Teamster members, let me also say that Tommy had choices. I begged him to join a firm that I represent to negotiate labor contracts. I told Tommy, "It would be guaranteed, less time on the road, salary and bonus that any other would have said, "Yes!" to. Tommy thought about it and said, "Well, maybe in five years."

Tommy loved his union. Tommy loved his members. Tommy loved his stewards and most importantly his team at the local.

Though most importantly, Tommy loved his wife, Liz, and told me that their love created the GREATEST JOY of his life Zoe.

Tommy, you made me see things I would never have seen on my own. You are my brother who I miss dearly. I love you and please talk to the person above and get me in - when it's my time. You know what to do.

Chuck Harple - January 16, 2025 at 10:53 AM

DS

“ *Our condolences to Tom's family our thoughts and prayers are with you from all the drivers at titan concrete*

Derrell sloan - January 15, 2025 at 06:58 PM

RD

“ *Mere words cannot express the devastating sense of loss and absence of our friend Thomas "Tommy" Ziembovic. Our thoughts have been and will forever be with his dear wife Elizebeth, and his wonderful daughter Zoe. The sense of his absence has swiftly been felt by so many good people who extended their feelings of Tommy's sudden passing. Rest easy friend, and you'll forever be in our hearts enjoying shorts and flip flops.
All our love, Teamsters Local 247 Staff and Executive Board.*

Rick Dubroy - January 15, 2025 at 02:42 PM

LW

“ *The loss of Tom will be felt by many. I sat 'across the table' from Tom on many occasions over the years. He represented his members well, but also could see both sides of an issue. He was positive, smart, and because he cared about people, he worked hard for the best outcome. When he promised something, you could count on it. His authenticity and integrity set him apart. He will be missed. My condolences to his family. Linda Wyatt*

Linda Wyatt - January 15, 2025 at 12:16 PM

SJ

“ We are heartbroken and the loss of Tom is so unbelievable. When we met him in Villeneuve-le-comte, we knew immediately we love him for his kindness: he was a warm and joyful person. At this time he was happy to live in France in a town like he lived with his parents. After we met him at his home with Zoe and Liz and we spend lovely time together. Tom, miss you and you will always be in our heart.

Liz and Zoe, our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. We will be here for you even if we are too far. But you will be welcome in France;

With all our love and sympathy,
your french family,

Thibault, Nathan, Maëlle, Jean-Philippe and Sophie

Sophie jorrion - January 15, 2025 at 10:22 AM

KR

“ The loss of Tom is truly heartbreaking. Tom was more than a friend; he was family to me, as are Liz and Zoe. Tom was kind, dependable, fun and always helping others – he seemed to know what you needed before you even did! One of my most treasured memories is of Tom this Thanksgiving, looking up to greet me with his big, always welcoming smile as he worked in the kitchen. It really reflects the essence of Tom – working quietly and capably with a glad heart to take care of those he loved. Tom, love you, miss you, and you’ll always be in my heart. Liz and Zoe – love you so much and always here for you. With deepest sympathies. Kathy Rathke

Kathy Rathke - January 15, 2025 at 09:34 AM

TC

“ Tom was my business agent for over 20 years. As I was a union steward, he showed great leadership. I learned a lot from him. He always had a big heart for his members. Tom often checked in on me after I retired To see how I was doing ; that’s how he rolled. He will be missed immensely. Rest in Peace, Tom.

Tim Cruse - January 14, 2025 at 07:49 PM

MB

“ Always enjoyed my time I spent with Tom. He was always willing to help people and was a very caring person. A very sad day.

Michael P Brown - January 14, 2025 at 06:42 PM

DG

“ I met Tom 7 years ago and got to know him better when I became steward he had a big heart and was always there to talk to when needed he was there when my stepmom passed and a year and a half later when my dad passed and that meant the world to me fly high buddy we are all going to miss you

Don Gallagher - January 14, 2025 at 06:36 PM

RH

“ I first met Tom when I became a steward, and I was not exactly sure of what I was supposed to be doing. Even though Tom was busy with bigger companies. He always took the time to answer all my questions, and walk me through anything I was not sure of from my first grievance to my first contract he was a good guy, and freely shared his knowledge. He will be greatly missed

Ralph Hummer - January 14, 2025 at 06:26 PM

BF

“ Tom and I would talk family a lot. He was a Proud man and should be. Tom was great at his job and I'm fortunate to have had his friendship and business relationship. Rest easy Tom. Liz and Zoe my heart is with you both.

Brian Fox - January 14, 2025 at 06:07 PM

MC

“ Thanks for always being there Tommy ! You always had the working man's back, and we always appreciated it. Rest easy.

Mike Champagne - January 14, 2025 at 05:53 PM

SR

“ Tom was such a soft spoken man who never saw the necessity to be noticed. He had an innate self confidence that did his talking for him. When he did speak, you listened! My fondest memory of my brother-in-law was at a Thanksgiving get together at Tom's house. We were teamed up for Euchre among three sets of opponents. We simply could not be beat. We always seemed to know what cards the other was holding. It got so bad that no one wanted to play us during the continual rotation of players from table to table. Tom and I never had to leave our table due to a loss. Even Tom was a little self satisfied that day. -Randy Matthews

Stephen Robison - January 14, 2025 at 04:19 PM

DM

“ My heart is broken for your family, tom you were one of a kind, myself and many brothers and sisters in the teamsters union will miss you forever

Dean miller - January 13, 2025 at 08:56 PM