



Thomas Harold Fritz (Tom)

February 3, 1945 - October 24, 2021

Thomas Harold Fritz passed away, with his family by his side, on Sunday, Oct. 24.

Tom was born to Harold and Doris (Dingman) Fritz in Chicago, Illinois and was the second oldest of five children.

← Tom was a graduate of Flat Rock High School, received his teaching degree from CMU and his masters from EMU.

He married Nadine Draftz, with whom he had three children, Chuck, Ron and Tracey.

Tom was a teacher, coach, mentor and role model for hundreds of young people and made an impact on everyone who was fortunate enough to know him.

Tom's teaching and coaching career began in 1968 and included stops at Flat Rock, Belleville, Riverview, New Boston Huron and Novi. Although he coached football, his love was the sport of wrestling.

Tom's wrestling teams produced 10 league championships, 15 district championships, 7 regional championships, 71 individual state qualifiers, 30 state placers and 21 state champions. A testament of Tom's ability to develop talent, he sent 22 athletes to collegiate programs. In addition to his coaching prowess, Tom served as an alternate on the 1968 US Olympic Team and has served the sport of wrestling as a registered official for over 10 years. In 2006, Tom was inducted into the Michigan Wrestling Association Hall of Fame and in 2012 the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Tom is survived by his loving partner of 18 years, Marie Ferstle; his mother, Doris Fritz; children, Chuck (Heidi), Ron (Jenny) and Tracey (Duane) Borsvold; grandchildren, Alex, Eric, Adler and Parker; siblings, Bill (Pat) Fritz, Ricky (Jerry) Stricker and Charlie (Sandy) Fritz; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Harold; and sister, Donna Farmer.

Tom's positive influence was immeasurable. He has inspired those around him to be better students, athletes, sons, daughters, dads, moms, teachers, coaches and human beings. These lessons will be passed on for generations to come.

A memorial service is being planned for the spring of 2022.

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to Beat the Streets Detroit.