



## Thomas Cotter "Tom" Carton

March 2, 1941 - February 26, 2021

Thomas C. "Tom" Carton, Sr., age 79, of Matthews passed away February 26, 2021. He was born March 2, 1941 to the late John Doran and Mary Teaney Carton. He graduated High School from ST. Benedict's Preparatory School, and then attended University of Dayton to earn his Bachelor's Degree. He was married to his wife Wanda on May 16, 1964. He is preceded in death by his parents John and Mary Carton; daughter, Jacqueline Annette Vreuls, and brother, John Carton.

Tom was born in Binghamton, NY and later moved with his job to Parsippany, NJ, Dayton, OH, Murray Hill, NJ and Poughkeepsie, NY. He built a career in financial management as a Financial Controller and an Administrator. He was also a small business owner.

He collected antique Lionel Toy Trains for over 56 years and had an extensive, encyclopedic knowledge of them. Others relied upon him extensively for specific details concerning all facets of the hobby. Was an active member of the Train Collectors Association (TCA) since about 1970. He also owned various antique cars manufactured early 1900's and currently has a 1931 Ford Model A Sport Deluxe Roadster.

Tom was a devout Catholic husband, father, and grandfather who relished moments with all of his immediate and extended family. He was a parishioner of ST. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte, NC.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Wanda Studebaker Carton; children and spouses, Christopher T. Carton (Pamela), Theresa Elizabeth Bracken (Anthony), Thomas Cotter Carton, Jr.; son-in-law Jon Vreuls; grandchildren, Stephanie Ann Carton, Sean Michael Carton, Daniel Patrick Carton, Briana Elizabeth Vreuls, Erika Rita Vreuls, Katharina "Trina" Jane Vreuls; siblings, Frances Birrane (John), Rosemary Smollon (Frank), nieces and nephews, John Carton, Jr. (Seaneen), Kathleen Corbet (William), Jane Stabler (William), Brian Carton (Desiree), Mary Fran Close (Bradley), Frank Smollon, IV (Katie), Jeffrey Smollon (Katie), Steven Smollon (Nicole).

Funeral Mass will be held 1:00 PM Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at St. Matthew Catholic Church. Eulogy will be given at 12:50. Inurnment will follow in Forest Lawn East Cemetery, 3700 Forest Lawn Dr. Matthews, NC 28104. Family is in the care of Heritage Funeral Home, Weddington Chapel. Online condolences may be made at [www.heritagecares.com](http://www.heritagecares.com).

Memorials may be made to St. Benedict's Prep in his honor at [sbp.org](http://sbp.org) or 520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Newark, NJ 07102.

# Cemetery

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**Forest Lawn East  
Cemetery**  
3700 Forest Lawn Drive  
Matthews, NC, 28104

# Events

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<b>MAR</b>	<b>Funeral Mass</b>	01:00PM
<b>2</b>	<hr/>	
	St. Matthew Catholic Church 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte, NC, US, 28277	

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Heritage Funeral and Cremation Services** - March 09 at 04:37 PM

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“ I was surprised to see Tom had passed when looking through my Headquarters News. I remember him well and with fond memories from our encounters at train shows. I always called him "Sidney" and he said others also called him by this name. Tom, you will be missed at York and the other shows.

**Frank Spence** - May 11 at 06:04 PM

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“ It was a shock when I read Tom's obituary in the TCA March newsletter that I received this past Friday. It was just so unexpected since I had talked to Tom at the last Christmas show in Raleigh 2019 and he seemed his same old self as we chatted for quite some time.

I have know Tom since the early 1970's when he worked for Green Fan in Beacon, NY. We met because of our shared interest in old electric trains. He came to my home several times to see my collection and do some trading.

When I moved to Raleigh in 1977, I lost touch with Tom. Around 1982 to my great surprise I ran into him at a train show in Charlotte and we immediately picked up our relationship. I also had interest in old cars as he did and he came to my home to see my 1954 Ford convertible and my 1959 Edsel. We got together at local TCA shows discussing trains and antique cars (his '31 Ford).

I will greatly miss these encounters that happened at just about every show. I would like to have attended the funeral mass, but it was already over when I found out about it.

Tom was a kind and sincere person and he will be missed greatly. I express my sympathy to his wife Wanda who he mentioned often and to his children and the rest of his family.

Sincerely,

John H. Adler  
Clayton, NC

John Adler - May 03 at 02:07 PM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear of Tom's passing in February. I only wish I had found out before now, so I could have come and paid my respects. I knew Tom and his family since 1979 when we met while living in Poughkeepsie, NY. We initially met through train collecting when I was a college student.

He was always a good friend and actually gave me my first "real job", a few months after I graduated from college. We worked together for 3 years at Green Fan Company in Beacon, NY, before I branched out to open my own business.

We remained friends, then coincidentally, both moved at about the same time to Charlotte, NC. We continued our friendship, both personally, and through train collecting. We both also shared a passion for classic cars. Tom used to tell me a lot of interesting stories relating to his tenure at Chrysler Corporation during the 1960's and early 1970's.

I will always remember and cherish Tom's friendship, being a mentor, and his patience with my sometimes stubborn ways. I wish to send my condolences to Wanda, Tom Jr., Chris, Jacqueline, and the rest of the family. He will be missed.

Ken Jackson

**Kenneth Jackson** - March 31 at 10:07 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to Tom's family for their loss. Tom and I were classmates at St Benedict's Prep many years ago.  
John Golden '59

**John Golden** - March 03 at 09:06 AM

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“ Tom and I were the only Charlotte-area graduates from the class of 1959 at St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, N.J. We met for lunch several times, but only made it back to NJ for one monthly meeting of the great class of '59. Tom loved Chryslers, model trains, Model A Fords and his family. All were topics of discussion. My condolences to his family and many friends.

**Pete Prunkl** - March 02 at 08:00 PM

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“ Tom worked with us at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church for 12 years. He was our administrator and endeared himself to our entire church family. We on the staff especially loved him. He came to us at a critical point in our history and really helped us get back on solid ground. We will miss him greatly! Love to all the family! Bobby Morrow

**bobby morrow** - March 02 at 02:26 PM

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“ Condolences to the family for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. God bless,  
Paul & Amy Owenby

**Paul Owenby** - March 02 at 12:41 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss! Tom and I were friends since high school at St Benedict's. He was a good man! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family! Charles & Gail Schulz. Ormond Beach Florida.

**Charles Schulz** - March 02 at 10:57 AM