



Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland

December 10, 1954 - April 7, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Thomas "Tommy" Roland, on April 7th. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who touched the lives of many.

Born December 10, 1954 in Washington DC to Leonard Roland and Ruth (Somers). He is survived by his wife of 42 years Joanne, son Chris Cornette (Cheryl) and precious granddaughters Kaitlyn and Kelsey, who he adored. Sister Kathleen Norstrude (Eddie), Brother-in-law Chuck Kerkes (Marcia) and many friends.

Growing up, in what was then a rural Southern Prince George County, much of Tom's childhood was spent exploring the forest and Potomac River shoreline that has now become National Harbor.

After several years of Estuarine Science Study, Tom changed his major to Outdoor Recreation earning his degree from University of Maryland. This kept him engaged in his nature-related interests.

After a few years working for MD-National Parks and Planning, in 1978 he began his 38-year career with Charles County. During Tom's tenure as Parks Director the County Park system grew from 867 acres to now over 4,000 acres and from 8 to 31 parks.

Through community, non-profit, State and Federal Partnerships, Tom has played a role in preserving open space throughout Charles County. Some of the more notable acquisition projects include: The Indian Head Rail Trail, Friendship Farm Park, Maxwell Hall, Mallows Bay, La Plata Farm Park, Port

Tobacco River Park and the corridor that will eventually become the Popes Creek Rail Trail.

He was an innovator, some of the projects he was proud of were Indian Head Rail Trail, Disc Golf Course at Turkey Hill, Skate Park and numerous dog parks. Early in his career he started the Charles County Dart League, eventually being inducted into the National Dart Hall of Fame.

Tom as the recipient of The Bureau of Land Management's 4-C's Award for outstanding Natural Resource Planning and the Maryland Governor's Citation for outstanding service related to development and operation of Charles County's Park system. Tom was recognized by the Mallow's Bay National Marine Sanctuary Steering Committee for his efforts in preserving and promoting Mallow's Bay. He received the Volunteer of the Year award from the Potomac Riverways Network for his efforts in water testing in the Port Tobacco River and the Heritage Award from the Charles County Conservancy.

Tom was a loving husband, known for his dry humor. He was an athlete playing baseball and basketball starting in High School and later at Charles County Community College, eventually playing softball in Southern Maryland. Tom's life was a testament to the power of kindness, compassion and a love for the outdoors.

A celebration of Life will be held on April 19, 2025 at Raymond Funeral Home in La Plata.

In lieu of flowers Tom requested donations to:

Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation

www.curemeso.org/donate

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

1525 Aviation Blvd., Suite 318

Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Every 13 minutes an American die from Asbestos

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR 19. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Memorial Service

APR 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Tribute Wall

JV

“ A few high school pictures showing Tommy's good sense of humor and playfulness. Complements of Joel Golden (pictured with Tom).



John Vanaman - April 21, 2025 at 01:03 PM

JR

Thanks for sharing

Joanne Roland - April 29, 2025 at 01:27 PM

PC

“ Port Tobacco River Conservancy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland.



Port Tobacco River Conservancy - April 18, 2025 at 02:04 PM

PC

“ Port Tobacco River Conservancy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland.

Port Tobacco River Conservancy - April 18, 2025 at 02:04 PM

JW

“ Jerry & Janis Williford purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland.



Jerry & Janis Williford - April 17, 2025 at 01:28 PM

WR

“ Tom is truly a man who has left a legacy, and it is fitting that each of us who knew him will be reminded of him when passing by the Port Tobacco park with his name.

Tom was a great ally in developing the Indian Head Trail, and through that experience I was able to see that he loved providing facilities for all communities in the parks - not just cyclists and walkers, but disc golf players, dog parents, and all others. The county is truly better for his leadership in parks development.

I regret that I will not be in town to attend the memorial, so I hope you will accept my respects here.

Walter Roscello - April 17, 2025 at 10:40 AM

JR

Thank you Walt

Joanne Roland - April 29, 2025 at 01:28 PM

JF

“ Tommy was one of a small handful of friends and I mean true friends that I have known almost my entire life. From our days of playing ball in the streets to playing ball on the fields as we grew, Tom has been in my life. As young teenagers our group of guys would congregate on the corner by Tommy's house. We talked about sports, we talked about girls or at least what a young teenager thought we knew about girls and we talked about nothing in particular. We all just enjoyed being together. As we got older and started careers, we still found time to stay in touch. Most of us were still in the area so going to ball games, playing cards at J's or going out for crabs during season was always enjoyable. I remember when a young lady by the name of Joanne came into his life. We started hearing her name mentioned more and more so we knew this was serious. We finally met Joanne and she was immediately accepted in the group. What an excellent match for Tom. Of course this turned out to be the love of Tom's life and I am happy for the years they spent together. Tommy, I'm glad I got to spend time and say good-bye before you left us. You have always been like a brother and I know our paths will cross again. Save me a seat at the card table.

Jeff Fattibene - April 17, 2025 at 08:22 AM

BS

that nails it Jeff, beautifully said. Amen

Brian Scott - April 17, 2025 at 06:07 PM

RA

Very nice comments, Jeff

Ron Altemus - April 18, 2025 at 09:47 PM

JG

We are all blessed that Tom came to Charles County, for the Parks and programs he created and enhanced and the opportunity to know him.

Janet Gummere - April 21, 2025 at 06:05 PM

DJ

“ Our sincere condolences to Joanne and the family. I first met Tom through my work with an engineering company, and continued later during my career in Southern Maryland. Tom was the ultimate public servant as Charles County Recreation and Parks Director, leading and contributing to the many recreation opportunities and enhancing our quality of life - the Indian Head Rail Trail, Port Tobacco Park. This is his legacy to Charles County. I later worked with Tom on the Port Tobacco River Conservancy Board of Directors, where his leadership and vision to preserve the river will be sustained. Not only a dedicated public servant, Tom was a good man. He will be missed, but his legacy is visible and a testament to what servant leadership means.

David Jenkins - April 17, 2025 at 07:47 AM

SU

“ Sue purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland.



Sue - April 16, 2025 at 12:46 PM



“ Tommy in first grade 1961. High School pictures from Brian Scott.
Tommy on the day he got his electric Ford Pickup.



Ron Sheckler - April 16, 2025 at 12:17 PM

CF

“ 1 file added to the album Tommy Roland



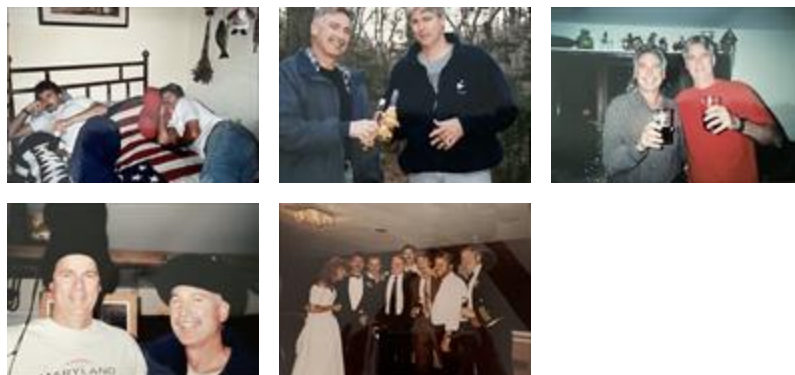
Carol Fattibene - April 15, 2025 at 09:19 PM

CF

“ Tommy was one of the good guys. He was my husband’s childhood friend and they met each other in the second grade in the 1960’s. I met Tommy when I was dating Jeff in the late 1980’s. I thought that Jeff had a cool friend.....Tommy.....tall and handsome with a dry sense of humor. I liked him immediately! O.H. boys!

Read his wonderful obituary. It speaks of a kind man who did good things for his community. He made a difference that will last forever. It is hard to describe his life in a few paragraphs. Tommy was so much more to so many people. We will never know all the lives he touched with his kind spirit and true goodness. The only thing we do know is that he was loved by his wife, Joanne and his family and we will all miss him so much.

We remember Tommy in a few of the photos we have as the very special guy he was to Jeff and me.



Carol Fattibene - April 15, 2025 at 08:34 PM

DJ

“ So saddened to read this. I always enjoyed my conversations with him while I worked for the County. Please accept my deepest sympathy and condolences. Prayers to Joanne and the family

David Jenkins - April 15, 2025 at 11:30 AM



“ Tommy was one of the best human beings I have ever known in my life. He and I were friends for just short of 70 years. The number of people's lives affected by Tommy's legacy of park is unknowable. Many more people not yet born lives will be better because of Tommy's efforts. I never knew anyone who has had such a positive effect on so many.



Ron Sheckler - April 15, 2025 at 08:47 AM

TG

I feel this is so true. I didn't know Tom at all, but my husband, kids and I love the parks in Charles County. It's amazing the impact that we can have on others we will never meet. Thank you for sharing.

Tara Granger - April 16, 2025 at 01:13 AM

DS

“ *World Famous Tommy Roland Envelope System!*



Dave and Sharon - April 14, 2025 at 10:02 AM

DR

“ David R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland.

David R. - April 14, 2025 at 09:50 AM

LP

“ A tree to grow in your honor, Tommy - Tall, strong and beautiful; just like you.

Prayers forever,
Spindler

Lowry Spindler Phelps - April 14, 2025 at 09:38 AM

LP

“ Lowry Phelps planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland.

Lowry Phelps - April 14, 2025 at 09:14 AM

BL

“ Bobby Scott and Lynn purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas "Tommy" Charles Roland.



Bobby Scott and Lynn - April 14, 2025 at 06:25 AM

CM

“ Tom was a wonderful man, respectful, a gentleman, soft spoken and had a very dry sense of humor. It was always a pleasure to be around him. Tom will always be known to me as Mr GoPro (a side joke) and I will miss him very much! I thank God I had the pleasure to have known him! My heart is heavy 🥹❤️👍



Carol A Morea - April 12, 2025 at 02:18 PM

JW

“ 1 file added to the album Tommy Roland



John Walter - April 11, 2025 at 12:16 PM

CK

“ So very sorry to hear this. Tom's contributions to Charles County will stand for generations. He enhanced the lives of children and families immeasurably by creating spaces of green and sport and fun. Sending you "hugs" Joanne. I am thankful for all he did and the gentleman that he was. Sincerely, Candice Q. Kelly

Candice Q. Kelly - April 11, 2025 at 08:40 AM

JM

Such a great loss to many. I'm so sorry for your loss Joanne. Tom fought a long hard fight. Such a good man. And I know you loved each other dearly. Tom now will watch over you and yours from above. Difficult times for you ahead without your love and best friend. Hold on to the precious memories of all the exciting times you had together. Rest in Peace Tom. You were always one of the good guys.

Joyce Maines - April 11, 2025 at 09:03 AM

JW

Tom was one of a kind. Such a pleasure to have known him. He always had good things to say about everyone. Always had a smile to pass onto someone else. He will be dearly missed by me and anyone who had the pleasure to call him a friend. RIP Tom

John Walter - April 11, 2025 at 12:13 PM

JJ

In loving memory of my dear friend, Tom Roland, who inspired me professionally through many meaningful conversation over the years. We shared incredible moments as teammates in our men's softball leagues at Laurel Springs and in Calvert County. Tom, you will be greatly missed. I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to speak to you this past Sunday. God bless you, my friend, Rest in peace.

Jerry R. Williford Jr. - April 11, 2025 at 12:54 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the album Tommy Roland



Raymond Funeral Service - April 10, 2025 at 11:20 AM