



Thomas M. Sonnier

February 12, 1960 - September 1, 2008

Thomas M. Sonnier, 48, of Parsonsburg, passed away on Monday, September 1, 2008 in North Carolina.

He was born on February 12, 1960, in Salisbury, Maryland, a son of Newman Sonnier and his wife Shirley of Salisbury and the late Florence (McInnis) Sonnier.

Tom worked for NRG Indian River Power Plant for 26 years in the operations department and then became a shift supervisor. He was a member of the I.B.E.W. Local 1307 for 25 years. He was a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Delmar and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Salisbury. He was a marathon runner, an avid biker, and enjoyed triathlons and Livestrong bike events. Tom loved fishing, camping, hiking and traveling. He was a second don in Shorinji Kempo.

In addition to his father and his stepmother, he is survived by his wife, Jane Sonnier; a son, Christopher Sonnier of Parsonsburg; a sister, Terri Watson and her husband Rich of Salisbury, and their children Bridget Deshiell and her children Gary, Kane and Bryce; a brother, Timmy Sonnier of Salisbury; a brother, Dennis Sonnier of Salisbury, and his son Logan Sonnier; a brother, Patrick Sonnier and his wife Lorrie of Delmar and their children; Melanie Russell and her husband Josh and Nick Sonnier and Zoe Sonnier; mother and father in law, Warren and Betty Rogers of Sharptown; sister in law, Nancy Springer of Sharptown; sister in law, Fay Friedel and her husband Lonnie of Seaford, brother in law, Bruce Rogers and his wife Judy of Sharptown; an

aunt, Joann Sonnier of Chesapeake City and her children David, Curtis and Christine; an aunt, Wilma Shockley of Salisbury; several nieces and nephews; and extended family in Louisiana.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his grandmother, Josephine McInnis and an uncle Avie Sonnier.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Short Funeral Home, 13 E. Grove Street in Delmar.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 163, Salisbury, MD 21803.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Previous Events

Service

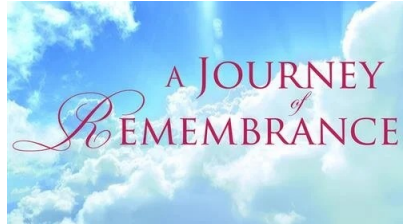
SEP **8.** 7:30 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E. Grove Street
Delmar, De

Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas M. Sonnier*



Short Funeral Home - September 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I would like to post something our brother Dennis wrote for Tommy. He wanted to read it at the memorial but the funeral home was unaware of it.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT KNOW ME MY NAME IS DENNIS SONNER. I AM ONE OF TOM'S YOUNGER BROTHERS. I HAVE HAD A FEW NICKNAMES OVER THE YEARS BUT THE ONE I AM MOST PROUD OF...WHICH ULTIMATELY CAME FROM MY BIG BROTHER TOMMY IS "LITTLE SONNIER". MOST KIDS DON'T LIKE BEING CALLED LITTLE BUT WHEN SOMEONE CALLED ME "LITTLE SONNIER" THAT MEANT THEY KNEW THAT I WAS THE LITTLE BROTHER OF TERRI, TOMMY AND TIMMY SONNIER. THAT ALWAYS MADE ME PROUD AND OF COURSE I WAS ALSO PROUD WHEN I HEARD MY LITTLE BROTHER PATRICK BEING CALLED "LITTLE SONNIER". YEARS WENT BY AND TOMMY AND JANE HAD A SON CHRIS AND SO HE BECAME "LITTLE SONNIER" AND NOW HE IS A FINE YOUNG MAN THE WHOLE FAMILY IS VERY PROUD OF. SO WHEN I HEARD SOMEONE CALL MY SON LOGAN "LITTLE SONNIER" THEY MAY NOT KNOW IT BUT THAT TOUCHES MY HEART IN A SPECIAL WAY. TOMMY BEING THE OLDEST BROTHER PROTECTED US ALL GROWING UP AND DID HIS BEST TO KEEP US OUT OF HARMS WAY. HE TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS AND ALWAYS HAD GOOD ADVICE FOR ME WHEN I NEEDED IT. EVERYONE KNOWS HE WAS EASY TO TALK TO AND KNEW HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES WHEN THEY REALLY NEEDED IT MOST. HE CARED ABOUT OTHERS AND HE SHOWED IT BY SPENDING A LOT OF HIS OWN FREE TIME HELPING OTHERS INCLUDING MYSELF. TOMMY ALWAYS HAD GOALS HE WORKED TOWARD AND HE LEFT US WHILE HE WAS PUTTING ALL HIS HEART INTO WORKING TOWARD ONE OF HIS LATEST GOALS. ALL OF US HERE TODAY KNOW WHAT A KIND AND CARING PERSON TOMMY WAS AND I AM SURE HE WOULD HAVE HAD A KIND WORD FOR EACH ONE OF YOU. I LOVE HIM TODAY, I MISS HIM TODAY AND I WILL MISS HIM EACH AND

EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE. I WISH WE ALL HAD MORE TIME TO SPEND WITH HIM BUT GOD MUST HAVE NEEDED A GOOD STRONG ANGEL TO HELP WATCH OVER US ALL. I LOVE YOU TOMMY. DENNIS##imported-begin##Terri Sonnier Watson##imported-end##

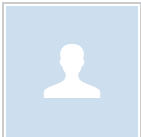
September 16, 2008 at 10:42 PM



“ I am Tom's sister Terri. On behalf of the entire family I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, thoughts and kind words. Our hearts are broken and it is by the grace of God, our family and friends, your thoughts and prayers that we will begin this eternal process of healing. We are all so very proud of Tom in all of his accomplishments and how many people that he touched through his short life. We would also like to thank everyone for attending the memorial, donations, flowers, calls and cards. Please keep my beloved brother in your prayers, thoughts and hearts forever and he will always be with us. I love you Tommy, and I will miss you forever. Terri

If you would like to keep in touch with me my email address is tmay s_513@yahoo.com##imported-begin##Terri Sonnier Watson##imported-end##

September 16, 2008 at 10:25 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. We just met Tom for the 1st time at the recent Livestrong bicycle ride in Philadelphia. He was a great inspiration to me as I had never done a ride like that before. We became friends quickly and made tentative plans to ride together in upcoming bike events. He will surely be missed by all who knew him.##imported-begin##Tom & Diane Kilburn##imported-end##

September 10, 2008 at 07:53 PM



“ To the Sonier Family ...

I'm so very sorry for your family's loss. I didn't know Tom, personally but I just realized his sister Terri is a friend from high school. We graduated the same year.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Tom's son, Chris through his girl friend, Angie. He is such a nice young man.

Also, my son and nephew are students of Mrs. Sonier at Delmar.

No words can express our sympathy for this sudden loss of your loved one. On behalf of myself and my family, please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers and our heart goes out to you.

Sincerely,

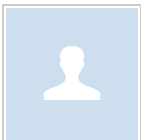
*Debi Webster & family##imported-begin##Debi Johnson
Webster##imported-end##*

September 09, 2008 at 03:11 PM



“ Jane and family: We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do for you. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you and the family at this time.##imported-begin##Jim and Vicki Esham##imported-end##

September 08, 2008 at 07:39 PM



“ Our kids grew up with and went to school with Tommy and his brother and sister. We are truly sorry for your loss. The Tauber Family##imported-begin##Charles & Wanda Tauber##imported-end##

September 08, 2008 at 06:45 PM



“ Jane and Family: We were so sorry to hear of your loss. May the Lord bless you and your family and give you strength in the coming days and weeks ahead. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you.##imported-begin##Lisa and Randy Ellis##imported-end##

September 08, 2008 at 12:15 PM



“ To Tommy's sister and family. Know that he is very happy with our Lord in heaven. I knew Tommy and his parents for years with association through Delmarva Power. What a great guy. I just lost my best friend in a bicycle accident. She was 49 and just like a sister to me. She reminded me of a female Tommy. They both were great people.. kind, sweet, always willing to help others and no doubt our Lord needed them for angels to help him. We'll all soon be with them in heaven. I will pray that you all will find comfort in God as I did. God Bless you all. Theresa##imported-begin##Theresa Trader##imported-end##

September 07, 2008 at 09:31 PM



“ Dear Sonnier Family: I am deeply sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you . I hope your memories of Tom, your strength from one another and God's Blessings help you through these difficult times.

Love,

Ann (McInnis) Hernandez & Family##imported-begin##Ann (McInnis) Hernandez##imported-end##

September 06, 2008 at 04:38 PM



“ Tom was a dear friend and mentor to me when I was practicing Shorinji Kempo many years ago. He was a hard working and honest man who loved his family dearly. He was so proud of his son Chris and spoke of him often. Tom loved a challenge and was very disciplined. He was kind to new students (children and adults) in Kempo class and clearly demonstrated unconditional love for mankind thorough his daily actions. From personal problems in school, to car problems in the middle of the night, he was always there ready to help anyone. He was a very good person and will be greatly missed by his friends and family. My sincerest condolences to Jane and Chris. GOD bless you Tom. Rest in Peace.##imported-begin##Bettina Postles##imported-end##

September 06, 2008 at 02:11 PM



“ Tom and I were friends and classmates. I am saddened to hear of his passing. You and your family are in my prayers.
Rob##imported-begin##Rob Alexander##imported-end##

September 06, 2008 at 10:16 AM



“ please know our love and prayers are with you and the family at this very difficult time.##imported-begin##gwynne and jim waybright##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 10:27 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all in this time of sorrow. I wish I had the words to ease your pain. I can only say that the void left in my heart by his absence will be filled with fond memories. It was through his vision and inspiration that we formed the cycling team at NRG. Now when we ride, we ride in his memory and with his everlasting guidance and knowing we have an angel looking over our shoulder.##imported-begin##Kerry Gerken##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 10:12 PM



“ To Tom's entire family: I am saddened to have just learned of Tom's passing. Like my twin sister Linda, I too have fond memories of being a small child at family reunions and being with Tommy and the rest of the family. May your memories and your love of Tom help you through this difficult time. Love, Lisa McInnis.##imported-begin##Lisa McInnis##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 07:44 PM



“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy to all of Tom's family. I am a cousin (on the McInnis side) and although I have not seen Tommy in many years, I have always remembered his kindness and friendship during our childhood family reunions in Long Island, New York. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, Linda McInnis##imported-begin##Linda McInnis ##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 07:07 PM



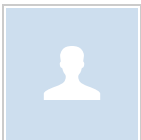
“ Tom and I were childhood friends and classmates. I grew up on Carey Avenue and considered him a good friend during my years in Salisbury. I am saddened to hear of his passing. I am thankful to read a little about his life and to see that it was a life well lived. This comes as no surprise. Even though I have not seen Tom since high school, I feel I have lost a friend. With heart-felt sympathy, David Hearn###imported-begin##David Hearn###imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 05:17 PM



“ My sincere sympathy to the Sonnier family. I had the pleasure of teaching the whole Sonnier family swimming lessons at Schumaker Pond when they were children. Tommy was a kind and caring boy with a twinkle in his eye. I had seen Tommy in recent years and he was still the same sweet boy that had grown into a man. He was very proud of his family and I know how much you will miss him. May your wonderful memories of Tommy help you through this time of grief. Sincerely, Jane###imported-begin##Jane Brown###imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 02:12 PM



“ JANE AND FAMILY, WE WERE SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CONDOLENCES AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.###imported-begin##THE BANK OF DELMARVA DELMAR BRANCH###imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 02:08 PM



“ WE ARE DEEPLY SADDEN BY YOUR TRAGIC LOSS. OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS MOST DIFFICULT TIME .###imported-begin##TRACEY POWELL / FOXWELL PLUMBING##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 01:17 PM



“ I knew Tommy as a youngster, we grew up not far from each other. He was a very funny and fun friend to be around. (I was also a Parkside High '78' class mate). My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Laraine Buck###imported-begin##Laraine Buck##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 12:01 PM



“ To the Sonnier Family,

Please except my heartfelt sympathy and know that your family is in my prayers. I am a class mate of Tommy's and like some of our class mates we celebrated 30yrs and I a at a loss for words, however I know that god will keep you in his perfect peace.

*May God keep you strong today,tomorrow and always,
Blessings,*

Arlene Polk

Parkside Class of 78###imported-begin##Arlene Polk##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 11:41 AM



“ I want to thank you for allowing Tom to touch our lives and extend our sincere sadness in your loss. I work for NRG and rode in the MS150 in Texas earlier this year and in the Livestrong ride in Philly less than 2 weeks ago. Tom graciously helped me with my bike chain problem the night before the ride and checked on me during the ride to ensure that my bike was okay and gave me strong words of encouragement. My husband met Tom during these rides as well and we remember his smile and kindness, he was a true servant. May God Bless you in this time and know that there's joy in knowing that he is with our Lord and Savior – we will see him again!##imported-begin##Susan and Chuck Miller##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 11:08 AM



“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences at the loss of such a wonderful person as Tom. We only recently met at the Livestrong Challenge in Philadelphia. He was quick to help with any problems we had with our bikes and to offer advice and support. We had many wonderful conversations about bicycle rides and triathlon training. He will surely be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.##imported-begin##Bill and Sherri Ellis##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 11:04 AM



“ I knew Tom for a short time only, but it felt like a life time friend. I had the pleasure of riding the MS150 Houston to Austin in April with him. He help me with my bike and anyone that needed it. I rode most of the trip by myself, mostly because I was slower than the rest, but if he rode past me he always rode a short ways with me to give me the support to continue on. You see I didn't train for the bike ride and wasn't sure I could finish, but from the beginning he told me that I could do it. So he was a good part of the reason I made it. I know he will be missed by all, but knowing that we have angel riding with us will always make the ride that much easier. Our company has lost a good man in many ways. May God be with ya'll in your lost and my prayers are with you too. Connie Carrier Big Cajun #2 in New Roads Louisiana###imported-begin##Connie Carrier###imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 10:16 AM



“ I only knew Tom a short while as I met him in April at the MS150 Bike Ride to Austin, TX when he came to Houston to ride with our Team. It was a pleasure meeting and knowing Tom, though only briefly, and he will truly be missed.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Blessings,

Melanie Barrett###imported-begin##Melanie Barrett###imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 09:22 AM



“ I was one of Tommy's classmates from Parkside Class of 78. Please accept my most heartfelt condolences. Your family will be in my prayers.##imported-begin##Leanne (Chance) Therres##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 07:04 AM



“ I would like to say how sorry we are for your loss. I had the pleasure of being friends with him for 33 years. He was a true friend and a wonderful person that will never be forgotten.##imported-begin##King and Tina Stade##imported-end##

September 05, 2008 at 06:22 AM



“ We are deeply saddened and would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to the Sonnier family.

With love,

Cathy, Mike, Michael Jr, and Jennifer##imported-begin##Michael & Cathleen (McInnis) Moulton and family##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 09:20 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of this loss. Tom was a wonderful, kind person and a very encouraging cyclist who didn't mind hanging back to support new roadies. Even though I knew him briefly, meeting him just this summer through TNT, I will remember his kindness and my prayers are with his family.##imported-begin##Amanda Gifford##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 09:12 PM



“ You know our love, prayers and thoughts are always with you ... We are always here for you. No words can ease the pain you feel right now for you or for any of us, but just to know that the promise of us all being rejoined together in the sky helps each of us get through life knowing they wait for us.
Love you guys so much!##imported-begin##Joann Sonnier, Matt, Christine, Jared, Tyler and Drew Kelley##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 07:30 PM



“ Dear Jane and Chris, and all the family

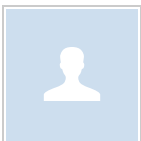
Our deepest condolences on your tragic loss...God Bless each of you and Tommy Rest in Peace....Love Ron, Pat Patrick & Colleen McInnis and family##imported-begin##Ron and Pat McInnis##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 04:40 PM



“ Chris, Dennis and Family,
You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.##imported-begin##LLoyd Wright and Family##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 02:32 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Jane and Chris. Tom was a generous and kind person and I had the pleasure of working with Tom for 26 years. He will be missed. May God Bless you at this time. Terry Johnson##imported-begin##Terry Johnson##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 01:41 PM



“ Tom was a mentor and one of the greatest influences in my life for about 5 years when I practiced Shorinji Kempo. I'll never forget his kindness, discipline, and love for people. My family and I are praying for the Sonnier family in the wake of this sad news.##imported-begin##Frank Honess##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 12:26 PM



“ I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the Sonnier family. I had the pleasure of working with Tom at the power plant and he truly was a wonderful man! He will be missed.##imported-begin##DeAnna Werner##imported-end##

September 04, 2008 at 11:51 AM