



## Tom Tsao

March 6, 1942 - June 3, 2026

Tom Tsao, 84, of New Milford, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2026, at home surrounded by his loving family. He leaves behind a legacy shaped by courage, hard work, and quiet artistry.

Born in Laiyang, Shandong, China, Tom's early life was defined by resilience. At the age of 7, he emigrated to Taiwan following the Chinese Civil War, where he later served with distinction as a detective in Taiwan's national investigative bureau — a career that reflected his integrity and keen sense of justice.

In hopes of providing a better future for his children, Tom brought his family to the United States in 1982, settling first in Queens, New York, before relocating to New Milford, New Jersey in 1987, where he became a trusted presence and devoted father, building a life of purpose and warmth. That same year, he opened Dartley Cleaners, and for two decades his dedication to his customers made it a fixture of the community.

Outside of work, Tom found joy and peace in the quiet arts. He practiced Chinese calligraphy with a steady hand, played the xiao — a traditional Chinese flute — and tended lovingly to his backyard fish pond, home to the large, colorful goldfish he took great pride in.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife, Lily; his sons, Paul and his wife Amy, and Andrew, widower of the late Iris Hwa; his grandchildren, Kevin, Sarah, and Chloe; his older brother, Tony Tsao, of Maryland; and his older sister, Shuang Troy, of Brooklyn.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to St. Jude Children's

Research Hospital at [stjude.org](http://stjude.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation and Memorial Service

JUN 6. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home  
268 Kinderkamack Road  
Oradell, NJ 07649  
info@volkleber.com  
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *the best grandpa ever* ❤️

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**Chloe Tsao** - June 09 at 12:14 PM

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“ I am Tom's older sister. Together with a second brother, Tony, we grew up in our hometown, Laiyang, Shandong, then moved to Taiwan, and finally the U.S.

We have always been intimate and cordial to each other. His sons, Paul and Andrew are my beloved and proud nephews. I have doted on his grandchildren: Chloe, Sarah and Kevin.

When he was a toddler, he was very rebellious, became a leader of a street gang, and worried us all in the family. However, when he matured, he became a good student, especially in history, the law, poetry composition, and calligraphy.

The whole family loves him deeply, for his fidelity, diligence and integrity. We shall forever remember him.

Shuang Tsao (Troy)

我是樹欣的大姐。我和二弟連欣一起在山東萊陽長大，後來搬到台灣，最後定居美國。我們一直關係親密友善。  
他的兒子Paul和Andrew是我摯愛的姪子，我為他們感到驕傲。我非常疼愛他的孫子們：Chloe、Sarah和Kevin。

他小時候非常叛逆，甚至當過街頭幫派的頭目，讓全家人都操碎了心。然而，長大後，他成了一名優秀的學生，尤其擅長歷史、法律、詩歌創作和書法。

全家人都深愛他，因為他忠誠、勤奮、正直。我們將永遠銘記他。

大姐 曹双欣 (Troy)

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Shuang Troy - June 08 at 10:00 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Slideshow



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**Paul Tsao** - June 07 at 08:09 PM