

Tom Terko

June 8, 1950 – February 9, 2025

TOM TERKO – MASTER MECHANIC



Tom Terko, one of our Club's master mechanics, passed away age 74 on February 9, 2025. Thomas Howard Terko was born June 8, 1950 in Washington, DC, the son of Howard and Mary Terko.

Tom joined our Club in 2002, and was very quickly active on the Board of Directors, as Technical Director, in 2005.

Tom quickly established his mechanical expertise in the Club in this position, and in 2006, was selected to receive our Carl Patrick Award. The report in the January 2006 *Ford Script* tells the story:

"Tom Terko was selected for the award, as a result of his volunteer efforts to help out several club members who were just not in a position to get things taken care of by themselves. Tommy showed up, on some occasions unannounced, and brought direction and purposefulness to the effort. He doesn't work with a lot of fanfare and bull, he just applies his skills and gets it done. These traits undoubtedly come from the many years that he was responsible for the reliability and safety of the Montgomery County, Maryland, school busses."

Tom was an avid antique auto collector, with a particular affinity for Model A and Model T Fords. His favorite was his 1927 Model T Roadster that was just like the car his grandfather owned, the car in which he learned to drive.

Tom also owned an award-winning 1929 Model A Ford Town Sedan, and 2 other early model Fords. He was an active member of many local Ford Model A and T clubs and found purpose in helping the other members of those car clubs work on their cars. He was also active in helping organize events and run those car clubs.



The last few years, he spoke of the great times and fond memories he had volunteering to help set up and run the antiques/old timers section of the Montgomery County (MoCo) Fair. He was also an active member of the Friends of the Montgomery County Farm Park.

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TOM TERKO – MASTER MECHANIC (Cont.)

Tom graduated Wheaton High School, class of 1969, and furthered his education at a trade school in Baltimore where he learned auto mechanics. He spent his career working for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation where he was a supervisor. After retirement, he started an auto body shop in Hyattsville and worked part time at Bratton's Antique Auto Parts in Mt. Airy.



An avid gun collector, at one point he owned a variety of firearms. He was an active member of the Greenbelt Gun Club, where he was a sharpshooter. And, although he never completed the full course, he had worked to obtain his private pilot's license, and told me several times how much he enjoyed flying.

Tom lived a very full and active life and found joy in helping others. He never did anything for anyone with the expectation of getting something in return and always tried to give more than he got.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 34 years, Carol, son Ryan and a granddaughter, Mia (who was the light of his life), and numerous cousins and other family members.

We are pleased to be able to honor Tom on this year's Sully pin:

Jim Gray
Sunshine Chair



Sources:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/silver-spring-md/thomas-terko-12243576>

The Ford Script, January 2006, pg. 7

Sully pin image courtesy of PnFanatics.com

