



Thomas P Ference

April 14, 2022

Thomas P. Ference, former Mayor of Haworth, New Jersey, and Emeritus Professor of Columbia University, died on April 14, 2022 at home surrounded by his loving family. A proud Pittsburgher, he was born in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania to Thomas A. and Mary Agnes Ference. He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years Ellie (nee Wiseman), son Thomas M. Ference and his wife Jill (nee Tartaglia), son Michael Ference and his wife Noelle Tutunjian and his grandchildren T.J., Sydney, Colin, Casey and Nicole, sister Joyce Miller, niece Sharon Miller-McCoy and her husband Davis McCoy, niece Myra Miller and her husband Paul Smith, great nephew Jordan McCoy and his wife Tiana McCoy (nee Barlow), as well as loved ones Brooke and Jerry Dynes and their children Morgan, Griffin and Justin.

He graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology (n/k/a Carnegie Mellon University) where he earned his Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering; a Master's of Science in Industrial Administration; and was Carnegie Tech's youngest student to earn a PhD (Organizational Psychology) at the age of 25 where he studied under Nobel Prize winner Herbert Simon and internationally renowned behavioral scientist Richard Cyert.

His life and career was a master class in giving back to others through education, volunteerism and public service.

Professionally, he was an Emeritus Professor at the Graduate School of Business and the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University where he taught for over 50 years until his retirement in 2017. For 20 years he served as the Director of the Columbia Executive MBA Program.

In 1976 he founded the Columbia Business School Institute for Not-for-Profit Management and served as a Director for over 30 years where he consulted with a number of prominent not-for-profit institutions including New York Presbyterian Hospital, The New York City Police Department, UJA-Federation, Holy Name Hospital, and The 92nd Street Y. He was also a Director of the NYPD Police Management Institute for over 30 years.

He was also the founder and managing member of The Riverside Group, a management consulting and executive development firm, where he consulted with and designed and conducted executive development programs for many firms, including The Hay Group, The NPD Group, Novartis, and Aventis, among others. He also taught executive programs in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Colombia, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brazil, France, and Spain.

In 2019, the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health renamed its strategic decision-making and team-building health system simulation the “Thomas P. Ference Health System Simulation.” Developed in 2009 with the input of healthcare industry leaders, the Thomas P. Ference Health System Simulation is a part of trainings given to Columbia Mailman graduate students and top executives at organizations, including New York-Presbyterian Hospital, the American College of Healthcare Executives, Association of University Programs in Health Administration, Barnabas Health, Cedars Sinai, Holy Name Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Mount Sinai Health System, Northwell, Perkins Eastman, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Disney Institute, and KPMG.

He and his family moved to Haworth in 1973 and during his near half-century as a resident he held numerous leadership positions in town. Until he stepped down to focus on his health in February 2022, he served as Mayor of Haworth where he proudly served with a highly functional and dedicated bi-partisan council that was singularly focused on serving the best interests of the Haworth community. Prior to serving as Mayor, for 28 years he served as the planning board chairman, the majority under his dear friend Mayor John DeRienzo. Along with his wife Ellie, he ran the Haworth Soccer Association for over 25 years and was also a coach in the Haworth Little League. He was a founder of the Vikings, F.C. soccer club, which serves as the club soccer program for the children of Closter, Demarest and Haworth. Most recently he has coached Closter, Demarest and Haworth children, including his own grandchildren, alongside his son in the local baseball, soccer and softball programs. In 1998 he was given the Bergen County Boys Soccer Coaches Association Contributors Award recognizing his contribution to youth soccer in Bergen County. He and his wife Ellie are also members of the Knickerbocker Country Club.

In addition to his contributions in his own community he also served on the board of directors of Bergen Catholic High School as well as several other public and not-for-profit boards.

A Funeral Mass will be Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 9:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Haworth. The family will receive friends Tuesday, April 19, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Barrett Leber Funeral Home, 148 Dean Street, Tenafly, New Jersey. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorial gifts be sent to the Ference Family Financial Aid Fund at Bergen Catholic High School

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

APR **20**. 9:30 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church
102 Park St.
Haworth, NJ 07641

Entombment

APR **20** (ET)

Garden of Memories
300 Soldier Hill Rd
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Tribute Wall



“ God Bless You Ellie, Thomas, Michael and Family. Our Hearts are heavy with the Loss & Passing of Tom. Our sincere Condolence to each of you. Ellie we remember meeting you & Tom shortly after you moved into town. We are certain that Tom is in the Loving Arms of Our Lord. Peace, Prayers Love Annette, Ron Green & Family

Ron Green - April 19, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 19, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 19, 2022 at 09:28 AM

PA

“ *Police Management Institute Alumni Assoc purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Thomas P Ference.*



Police Management Institute Alumni Assoc - April 18, 2022 at 07:32 PM

JB

“ *I am deeply saddened to learn of Tom Ference's passing. My late wife, Carol (nee Kleinberg) was a lifelong friend to Eleanor, and it was through my late wife that we came to be good friends with Tom & Ellie.*

He was a thoughtful and sensitive man, and was always a pleasure to be with him and Ellie.

I want to extend my sincerest condolences to Ellie, and the two sons, Tom and Michael.

*Warmly and faithfully,
Jack Berger
Mahwah, NJ*

Jack Berger - April 18, 2022 at 06:51 PM

WF

“ *With love, The Eitner family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas P Ference.*



With love, The Eitner family - April 18, 2022 at 05:08 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 18, 2022 at 03:44 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket* was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 18, 2022 at 01:47 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 18, 2022 at 11:43 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 18, 2022 at 11:11 AM

CR

“ We are deeply saddened by Tom’s passing. May his memory forever be a blessing to his family and all those who knew and loved him.

Cheryl and Hersh Rosenthal

cheryl Rosenthal - April 18, 2022 at 10:40 AM

BZ

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Ference's passing. My deepest, heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Ference, Tom, Mike, and the entire family. I have so many fond memories growing up next door to your family. A few years ago when I heard that Mr. Ference had been elected Mayor I was so happy and I thought, there is no better person to lead and represent Haworth! May his memory live eternal. My whole family sends their condolences and we will be at the funeral service.

- Bill Zois

Bill Zois - April 17, 2022 at 06:12 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas P Ference.



April 16, 2022 at 02:17 PM

LG

“ I am so sorry to hear about Tom's passing. I was a colleague of his for many decades, first at Columbia Business School and then working with him on the development and teaching of the Operations section of the Police Management Institute. He was always a pleasure to work with. He cared deeply about students and was always cheerful and upbeat. He will be missed.

Sincere condolences,

Linda V. Green

Cain Brothers & Company Professor Emerita of Healthcare Management

Columbia Business School

Linda Green - April 15, 2022 at 11:15 AM

AA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Andy Anderson - April 14, 2022 at 02:28 PM

AA

Tom taught our kids how to play. And how to be champions. He touched the lives of so many of the children of Haworth.

Andy Anderson - April 14, 2022 at 04:36 PM