



Terence J. Tennant

May 22, 1936 - January 5, 2023

Terence James Tennant (Terry)

05/22/1936 - 01/05/2023

Born in Essexville, Michigan to the late Kenneth James Tennant and Julia Donovan Tennant. Terry was the oldest of 5 children.

After graduating from Bay City Central High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces where he was a gunner in the Army stationed in Germany.

Upon returning to the United States, he worked as a bartender on the S.S. South American cruise ship (he always said that he was the original Issac from the Love Boat). He worked the summers of 1961, 62 and 63 to pay for his college degree at CCS in Detroit. His major was Interior Design and a second degree in Silversmithing.

In 1963 he started a Job at Whaley Interiors in Midland, Michigan where he met the love of his life and his wife of 58+ years, Mary Whaley Tennant. They married in June of 1964 and had two wonderful children, Sean Michael and Ann Teresa.

After working for a few interior design firms in the Detroit area, he opened his own interior design firm in Huntington Woods and built that over the next

several years. Then, together with Mary, they opened Tennant and Associates at the Michigan Design Center until 2018.

Terry's favorite place was the cottage that they had on Fawn Island, Ontario, Canada. He enjoyed spending time with family, friends, boat rides on the St. Clair River in the antique Chris Craft (which was younger than him by 2 years), making the perfect flower beds, potting the 35 geraniums every year, the tractor races, and tending bar for his guests by making the perfect Pina Coladas and Moscow Mules and many more!

He was a very faith filled man, attending Shrine of the Little Flower. He also volunteered his time to design the chapel at the high school using old stained glass found at the church.

His family was most important to him, and his memories will live on forever in our hearts.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Tennant; son Sean (Dawn) Tennant, daughter Ann Tennant; grandchildren Lyndsey Tennant, Lauren Tennant, Mason Halsey, Meghan (Tim) Lindeberg, Patrick (Megan) Wivo, Ryan (Elizabeth) Wivo; sister Kathryn Tennant, brother John Tennant, sister-in-law Betty Cody. Preceded in death by sisters Maryann and Sheila and brother-in-law Dick Whaley.

Visitation will take place on Thursday, January 12, from 3 -8 p.m. (Rosary 6 p.m.) at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, January 13 at 12 p.m. (gathering 11:30 a.m.) at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, 2100 Twelve Mile Rd., Royal Oak.

Share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Rosary

JAN 12. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Mass

JAN 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Tribute Wall

JC

“*Mr. Tennant was my first employer back in 1977. I was a co-op student from Ferndale High School my senior year. He and Mary were such a great couple... and Mary helped me to get my courage up to cut my long hair off... try something new (AFTER my senior pictures were taken!). I went to her hairdresser at Phase-One! I am glad to have known him. My sincere condolences to Mary and the Tennant family.*

Judy Greene Caddy - October 30, 2025 at 12:33 AM

JC

Terry and Mary would have known me as "Judy Greene" back then.

Judy Greene Caddy - October 30, 2025 at 12:35 AM

AK

“*I "saved" seats at 9 o'clock mass (Shrine church) for Terry and Mary for years. Considered them as dear friends. I was devastated to hear of Terry's passing. May he rest in peace. I pray for peace for my friend Mary.*
Allen Kaiser

Allen Kaiser - February 06, 2023 at 02:50 PM

GJ

“*I am so very sorry for your loss. Terry helped make our house in Huntington Woods look like our grown-up home! You and your family were wonderful neighbors and John and I were welcomed so warmly into your summer home when we were in "the neighborhood". I know he will be missed by so many for his creativity, kindness and gentle soul. Sending love, Gilda Jacobs*

Gilda Jacobs - January 17, 2023 at 04:54 PM

SI

“ Terry will be missed. I remember first working with him in the 1970's when I was at Ford + Earl Design, and continued to benefit from his knowledge and talent until his Design Center showroom closed. He was so kind and funny, and a great resource to the design community!

Sherry B. Innes

Sherry Innes - January 17, 2023 at 11:06 AM

SS

“ To one of the greatest men I have ever known. I will always cherish the few years we had together. Love you and may you rest in peace.

Steven Sellers

Steven Sellers - January 13, 2023 at 10:12 AM

AT

Thank you!

Ann Tennant - January 14, 2023 at 09:43 PM

PJ

“ Phillip Jeffries-PhilipJeffreyToddLisa purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Terence J. Tennant.



Phillip Jeffries-PhilipJeffreyToddLisa - January 12, 2023 at 06:49 PM

GG

“ It was such an honor to have known Terry through the years. As a designer starting out with Rohn Goldman Design, then later on my own, Terry always gave encouragement and generously offered assistance. When I made the jump to the MDC to work at one of the showrooms, it was always nice to pass Terry in the hall and stop for a chat. He was a kind, supportive gentleman that will be missed.

Gene Galley - January 12, 2023 at 06:31 PM

DR

“ Mary, Ann, Mason and Tennant family, I am so very sorry for your loss. The several times we met, Terry was so very gracious, funny, and a down to earth real person. He has left quite a legacy behind. One of love, kindness and respect. I know he is going to be missed greatly. I wish somehow I could ease the pain for all of you. God bless and keep you all in the coming days/months/years. Ann, reading the your story about the bunny was a precious, precious memory. It sounds like he was ready. Cherish those memories. And I know you have a ton of them. With love, Debi Redmond

Debi Redmond - January 12, 2023 at 08:14 AM

AT

Thank you!

Ann Tennant - January 14, 2023 at 09:44 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Terence J. Tennant.



January 11, 2023 at 02:39 PM

BJ

“ *Betsy, Michael, Laurie and Jill purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Terence J. Tennant.*



Betsy, Michael, Laurie and Jill - January 11, 2023 at 01:05 PM

SK

“ *There is only one Terry. Simply can't make another. I met Terry and Mary when I was 26. We have had a wonderful friendship for 51 years. Through episodes of difficulty they were always there for me. Not only was Terry a wonderful man he was also a gifted interior designer. My family loved Terry. As my sister said "it is hard to imagine a world without Terry".*
Love, prayers and strength for his loving family.

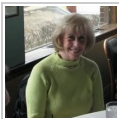


Shelley Kotcher - January 11, 2023 at 10:25 AM

AT

Thank you!

Ann Tennant - January 11, 2023 at 12:01 PM



In the early 1990s Terry created our living room, the furniture, the colors, the carpet, the design. We loved it so, I have not changed a thing in all these years.

Glory Schappe - January 11, 2023 at 07:01 PM

AT

Thank you!

Ann Tennant - January 14, 2023 at 09:45 PM

AT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ann Tennant - January 11, 2023 at 12:05 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Terence J. Tennant.



January 10, 2023 at 06:59 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Terence J. Tennant.



January 10, 2023 at 01:59 PM

JW

“ I started working with Mary and Terry during high school, organizing the sample library in their Huntington Woods showroom. To this day, this was one of my favorite jobs with the best people. Terry always joked that my friend and co-organizer could not keep a straight schedule, that we'd waltz into work when it was convenient - too much high school parting he lamented. He'd always tell me to put on my lipstick and iron my shirt, which I never did. He'd bring us lunch from the corned beef deli, I still remember the chicken rice salad.

When coming of age was difficult, and I didn't have a father at home present, Terry somehow helped to fill that gap in big ways and small. He was encouraging, kind, generous, and funny. I followed my own interests and became an architect, and credit those early experiences with Mary and Terry as some of the fundamental first steps.

You were a great man Terry and will be missed by all who knew you. All my love.

Jessica Wetters - January 10, 2023 at 11:56 AM

AT

Thank you!

Ann Tennant - January 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JD

Terry my family and I will will always miss you; your kindness, good humor, humility, laughter, tolerance, loyalty talent etc, etc. I have been thinking about all the fun time we shared. Fishing from your yacht in Lake St Clair and the Detroit River even though we rarely caught any fish. One time we even forgot to bring the bait.

Or setting out at Woodland Springs in my old red van to cut down some hard wood trees for firewood. Do you remember one time felling 2 large maples, cutting them to fit in the van, loading the van and then realizing that the van had sunk down in the mud and could not be moved. Then walking back to the lodge to get the kids to get us out.

Terry I could tell many more silly stories, but I can't type any more.

*Terry I will always miss you. Peace be with you.
Julius*

f

Julius Denenberg - January 12, 2023 at 03:22 PM

AN

Thank You!

ann - January 16, 2023 at 06:39 PM

WW

“ 1 file added to the album Terry



Warren "Rusty" Whaley - January 10, 2023 at 11:12 AM

AT

Love This!!!

Ann Tennant - January 11, 2023 at 12:01 AM

YF

“ *The Yurek family has many wonderful memories of Terry at the cottage. He was a great neighbour and was particularly helpful supervising any work going on at our cottage and giving darn good advice. The best was when he helped us install our ridiculously heavy stairs in the water in May and was very close to being the first swimmer of the season.*

He never stopped working outside maintaining their beautiful property.

Thank you all for being wonderful neighbours. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all

The Yurek Families

Yurek Family - January 09, 2023 at 08:21 PM

AT

Thank you!

Ann Tennant - January 09, 2023 at 10:08 PM

TF

“ *The Rossoll Family purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Terence J. Tennant.*



The Rossoll Family - January 09, 2023 at 07:40 PM

ER

“ *I have wonderful memories of Terry Tennant. Whenever I went to visit the Tennants, I was greeted like a beloved family member. Terry encouraged me every time to write a book (keep reminding me, Terry!) and always made time to take us on a boat ride in one boat or another (his favorite, of course, was his antique Chris Craft). If there was a good fish restaurant nearby, he'd want to stop for a meal. Gardening was a passionate hobby, and his gardens were gorgeous.. I know Terry will keep heavens' gardens blooming beautifully.. I will miss him!*

Edward Reischling - January 09, 2023 at 12:47 PM

ER

This message was posted by Sally Yost Reischling

Edward Reischling - January 09, 2023 at 12:48 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Terence J. Tennant.*



January 09, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Terence J. Tennant.



January 09, 2023 at 01:31 AM



“ Terry was an amazing man, husband, father, and friend. He always gave from his heart. Terry made everyone in his presence feel special and loved. He will be missed. Love you forever, Laura Biggs

Laura Biggs - January 08, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Terence J. Tennant.



January 08, 2023 at 12:47 PM



“ Rich and Barbara Bos purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Terence J. Tennant.



Rich and Barbara Bos - January 07, 2023 at 09:57 PM

AT

“ One of my favorite memories of my Dad was when we were at the Eastern Farmers Market in Detroit and they had live, baby bunnies for sale. I asked him if I could get one and he firmly said “NO” the tears started flowing down my cheeks immediately. My Mom must have nudged him and he then asked if I had my own money? I reached into the pocket on my overalls and pulled out \$5.00. The Tears stopped when he said “then go get the dam thing!” Needless to say my Rabbit had the coolest cage designed and built by him! I told him in the hospital that if he didn’t start eating and getting his strength back I was going to resort to those big tears again, he smiled and said “it won’t work now Honey”
Love you always and forever Dad!❤️

Ann Tennant - January 07, 2023 at 04:53 PM

LS

Ann - love your remembrance of your dad. He was definitely a special person and I can only imagine the cage he designed and built for your bunny and also can see your mom nudging him - love it! Such a talented person. He will be missed. Love, Lyn and Fred

Lyn Seeley - January 08, 2023 at 07:37 PM

AT

Thank you!

Ann Tennant - January 08, 2023 at 11:14 PM