



Theodore Kerr

January 4, 1943 - June 12, 2025

T. Thomas Kerr, age 82, of Royal Oak, passed away on June 12, 2025. Thomas was born in Detroit on January 4, 1943 to Theodore and Rena Kerr. He was raised in Royal Oak, Michigan, where he graduated from St. Mary's High School.

After high school, Thomas enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving with distinction for eight years. A Vietnam veteran, he was a recipient of both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star-testaments to his courage, sacrifice, and dedication to his country.

While stationed at an Air Force base in Minnesota, Thomas met the love of his life, Patricia. Following his honorable discharge from the Air Force, Thomas spent a year working in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, so that he could remain close to Patricia. Soon enough though, he and Patricia moved back to Thomas' home state of Michigan to start their family.

Thomas enjoyed a long career in the automotive industry. Beyond work, he was a man of passion and spirit. He loved golfing, horse racing, and cars. One of his greatest joys was cruising in his convertible Mustang. When he returned home, his grandchildren would gather eagerly as he revved the engine and raised the top in the driveway, always ready to share a moment of excitement and laughter.

A proud Native American and veteran, Thomas and his veteran brothers were a familiar sight in the Royal Oak Memorial Day Parade for many years, honoring their heritage and military service with dignity and pride. He treasured the many summers with his grandchildren, honoring the traditions at the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe Powwows.

Thomas will be remembered as the beloved husband of Patricia (née Swenson). Loving father of Lynette Yeager, Jennifer (Jorge) Acevedo, Tara (Casey) Crosbie, Natalie (Nick) Schulte, and the late Theresa Pickering. Proud grandfather (Papa) of Steven, Christopher, Savannah, Julian, Joshua, Brendan, Antonio, Alejandro, Allison, and Aidan; and great-grandfather of six. Dear brother of Anne (Tom) Cross, David (Pam) Kerr, Paul (Kiersten) Kerr, and the late Fr. Bob, Harvey, John, Michael, and Renee.

Visitation for Thomas will be held on Monday, June 16, from 3 - 7 p.m. (Sharing of Memories at 6:30 p.m.) at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Royal Oak. The Funeral Mass for Thomas will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. visitation) at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 13500 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park. Interment will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan at a later time.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution in honor of Thomas, please consider a donation to Disabled Veterans of America

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 16. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Sharing of Memories

JUN 16. 6:30 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Funeral Mass

JUN 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Oak Park
13500 Oak Park Boulevard
Oak Park, MI 48237

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I am saddened to just learn of Tom's passing. We knew each other for a while with our work at the Detroit Arsenal. He was also a regular participant in the TARDEC Golf Outing that I directed each year.

May T. Thomas Kerr be Resting-in-Peace. Job Well Done.

Mark Mikula.

Mark Mikula - April 04 at 09:55 AM

CA

“ Chris A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Theodore Kerr.

Chris A. - June 16, 2025 at 09:07 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Theodore Kerr.

June 16, 2025 at 11:57 AM

KS

“ Tom was a special breed, great American and good friend. He lived a good life and will be missed. May he rest in peace.
Kurt and Debbie Stein.

Kurt Stein - June 14, 2025 at 07:16 PM

KS

“ Kurt and Debbie Stein purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Theodore Kerr.



Kurt and Debbie Stein - June 14, 2025 at 07:09 PM

DC

“ Dick Clark purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Theodore Kerr.



Dick Clark - June 14, 2025 at 01:03 PM

TK

“ The Pickerings and The Kerrs purchased the *Truly Beloved Bouquet* for the family of Theodore Kerr.



The Pickerings and The Kerrs - June 14, 2025 at 09:48 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Theodore Kerr.

June 13, 2025 at 02:45 PM



“ *"On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral Or Memorial was purchased for the family of Theodore Kerr.*



June 13, 2025 at 02:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Theodore Kerr.

June 13, 2025 at 02:39 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Theodore Kerr.*



June 13, 2025 at 02:39 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Theodore Kerr.*



June 13, 2025 at 08:13 AM

CF

“ Curt and Mary Swenson and family purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Theodore Kerr.



Curt and Mary Swenson and family - June 12, 2025 at 10:33 PM

JE

“ Jonny, Kristen, and Evie Ellison purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Theodore Kerr.



Jonny, Kristen, and Evie Ellison - June 12, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Theodore Kerr.

June 12, 2025 at 09:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Theodore Kerr.



June 12, 2025 at 09:07 PM