



Thomas H. Neville

January 26, 1945 - August 13, 2023

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Thomas H. Neville, who left us on August 13, 2023 at the age of 78. Tom was born on January 26, 1945 in Detroit, MI., to John and Anne Neville. He is survived by his wife Sandy; his children Shannon (and Kelly) Transit, Tom (and Hallie) Neville, and Mike Neville; and his grandchildren Kiley (and Nick) Metcalfe, Jake Transit, Ryan Transit, Jim Roland and Shea Neville.

Tom and Sandy married in 1969 and built a life for themselves and their children in Royal Oak, Michigan, where Tom began his career as a physical education teacher at Barton Junior High School. Tom spent the next 30 years of his life as an administrator in the Royal Oak School District. He was nominated and won Michigan Principal of the Year in 2001, a distinction for which he was very proud. Tom's passion was working for the schools, he was always present for the sporting events, the dances, all of it. He

enjoyed mentoring and partnering with teachers. His motto was always, "Hire good people, and get out of their way". He got to know hundreds of parents over the years.

But, more than anything, Tom loved working with the students. He was the principal that knew all the students' names, he was present in the hallways and always with a smile or a joke. He shined most at listening to students' concerns and problems. He would do whatever he could to help a student in trouble or hurting in some way. He was a beloved member of the Royal Oak community, and the broader educational community within Michigan.

In 2006, Tom retired from the schools after completing the merge of the two former high schools (Dondero and Kimball) into one Royal Oak High School. In 2010, Tom and Sandy moved to The Villages, in central Florida. There, they made so many great friendships and had several years enjoying retirement together. Tom and Sandy as a couple were an inspiration to others because they truly were best friends and genuinely enjoyed the life they shared together. They set an example for which their children feel very blessed.

Tom loved to play golf, take Murphy to the dog park, brag about his grandkids,

socialize

with dear friends and family, and watch old movies, HGTV and the old "classic"

television shows that dated before 1973.

Tom and Sandy celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary shortly before his passing.

Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories.

Visitation and a memorial service to celebrate Tom Neville's life will be held on Saturday,

October 28, 2023. Visitation will be from 10am-11am and the service will be from

11am-12pm at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blks E. of

Woodward) Royal Oak.

In lieu of flowers please consider a gift to Tunnel for Towers at <https://t2t.org/>.

Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

OCT 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (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/>

Memorial Service

OCT 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
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Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Mr. Neville, that smile and the deep belly laugh when you could catch him just right. His willingness to always listen and leave you feeling valued. His guidance and inspiration fueled my drive to get a Masters Degree when many thought I couldn't finish high school. Perhaps my favorite memory, was trying to catch him with an arm bar, unfortunately on an off day. With in the blink of an eye, I traveled from the kitchen, was upside down and landed in the dining room. Had it not been for Mrs Neville I probably would have ended up in the living room. While he could grab a 200# angsty teenager by a pinch of fabric, his greatest gift was inspiring that same teenager to never wanting to disappoint him. I will cherish his memory always! -Jon Hutson*

Jon Hutson - October 30, 2023 at 06:59 PM

BK

“ *I wanted to take a moment and share a kind word about Mr. Neville. I had him as a principal at Addams Junior High and at Kimball High School. I certainly had nothing but the highest level of respect for him and appreciated his kindness to me and to all. Prayers to his family. My life is better off because of Mr. Neville. Prayers and Thoughts, Brian Kelley - Kimball High School Class of 1991*

Brian Kelley - October 28, 2023 at 04:49 PM

DB

“ With Deepest Sympathy to Shannon, Kelly and the entire Neville Family,

I graduated from Kimball HS with Shannon and Kelly when Mr. Neville became our principal-we were his first KHS graduating class. I have such fond memories of him as he was always so kind and funny to all of us. Years later, when I became an employee in RO Schools, he insisted I call him Tom instead of Mr. Neville and I remember how weird that felt at first but then I really appreciated that he was able to see me as a colleague and not just as one of his former students.

Keeping you close in my thoughts and prayers, Dina (Love) Bansen

Dina Bansen - October 26, 2023 at 03:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas H. Neville.



October 25, 2023 at 03:34 PM



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

October 25, 2023 at 03:34 PM