



Thomas J. Shea

June 23, 1929 - November 28, 2024

Thomas Joseph Shea was born to Irish immigrant parents Patrick and Elizabeth Shea on June 23, 1929 in Detroit, MI. He was the surviving brother of two younger sisters, Eileen Van Loozen and Patricia McMillan, and an older sister Mary Margaret who died early in childhood.

As a child growing up during the depression and WWII, Tom developed a strong work ethic and shouldered responsibility at an early age. He contributed to the family's income by manually setting pins at bowling alleys and other physically demanding jobs. He served in the artillery branch of the US Army, from which he was honorably discharged after completing a tour of duty in Baumholder Germany.

In 1951 and while still in the service, "Tom" married his high school sweetheart, Audrey Breitenbeck. In 1956, they moved to Utica, Michigan. As in his youth, Tom worked hard to provide for his new family. In his early years of married life, he worked various full-time jobs and attended a trade school for electricians. His last and longest employment was at Fisher Body Technical Center in Warren, MI, where he worked as an electrician before moving up into management. He retired after nearly 30 years of service.

Tom valued his limited, precious time with family. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons and longtime friends. In retirement Tom visited family in

several states, attended an occasional Tiger baseball or Red Wing hockey game, hunted in the Upper Peninsula, and went on multiple fishing trips to Alaska with sons and friends. As an example of his devotion to family and personal generosity, Tom took 19 family members on a trip to Ireland to meet their distant relatives and discover the family's roots. He repeatedly said it was the best thing he had ever done. The trip was an emotional experience for all and remains a significant piece of his legacy.

He remained a loyal and committed husband to his wife Audrey, caring for her at home until her passing in 2000 after a long illness. He shared some of his latter years with Judith Crow, before entering assisted living at Bickford Assisted Living and Memory Care, Shelby Township, MI.

He is survived by his four children: David Shea, Carol Ishimaru, Ronald O'Shea, and Ann Dickinson; their families, as well as many nieces, nephews and other extended family.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations be made to the American Heart Association, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674, or at americanheart.org; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or at www.stjude.org/tribute; or to Assured Hospice Care Inc., 25925 Telegraph Road Suite 320, Southfield, MI 48033.

Tom's family will receive friends for a memorial gathering on Sunday, December 15, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of his Celebration of Life service at 11:30 a.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 blocks East of Van Dyke), Utica. His inurnment will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly at a future date.

Please share a story or leave a tribute at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

DEC 15. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Celebration of Life

DEC 15. 11:30 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Thomas J. Shea*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - December 14, 2024 at 09:26 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Shea.*



December 11, 2024 at 12:09 PM



“ *Some of my best memories are of Tom, when he would come up north hunting ! Tom,Joe,David,Ronnie ,me,and dad ,what a great time, we would light a bonfire everyday in the woods and eat lunch ! He was always happy and fun and comfortable to be around , growing up he always had good advice I'm really going to miss you Tom, thanks for everything ❤️*

bill lepanen - December 03, 2024 at 04:27 PM

JU

“ My best memory of Tom was sitting around their kitchen table and he asked, "What is it you want to do?". At the time, I was a junior working in the library. Ms. Fitch taught me the ins and outs. I said I wanted to be a Liberian. I thought I was making a good impression. Without changing expression, Tom asked, "How lucrative do you think that would be?"

I got the deer in the headlight look, uh ummm oh geez

Ww had a great laugh!

I love telling that story!

Love you guys...

Julie - December 02, 2024 at 05:33 PM

PH

“ One of your sister's memories she shared with me was that you didn't like her not to be smiling and that you didn't say goodbye on the phone without telling a joke to make her laugh. Thank you for all your jokes and smiles Uncle Tommy 💕💕



Paula Hearns - November 30, 2024 at 06:16 PM

SF

We have many special thoughts of Tom but our fondest memory is his smile and positive personality and the way he always knew how to tell a great story. God Bless and rest your sole.
Your friends the Serapilia family

Serapilia family - December 11, 2024 at 01:57 AM

MH

Over the years we have shared many holidays, birthdays and family gatherings together. Tom's genuine kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity has always been appreciated from all in our family. Our children grew up knowing him as "Grandpa Tom". We sincerely appreciate the time and love he has shared with us through the years. The memories of Tom will be in our hearts forever and we will certainly miss those wonderful hugs he gave us every time we were together.
The Horn Family

Mark & Brenda Horn - December 12, 2024 at 01:36 PM

AD

Dad, I miss you very much. It brings me joy and peace knowing you and mom are reunited once again. Your words and wisdom stay with me daily. Thank you for the love and support you so willingly gave all my life. With love always and forever, your daughter Annie

Ann Dickinson - February 11, 2025 at 02:03 PM