



Thomas A. Miller

October 14, 1937 - February 20, 2016

Thomas Alan Miller, age 78, of Clare, formally of Warren, went to join his Heavenly Father on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Thomas was born the son of Joseph and Crystal (Gaugh) Miller on October 14, 1937 in Detroit. He was united in marriage to Maryann Toteff, on February 25, 1956 and remained the love of his life. His love for his family and life were the most important qualities he possessed. His generosity, humor, positivity and courage were beyond compare. Thomas was a remarkable man who lived life to the fullest. He will truly be missed by all who had the opportunity to meet or know him as he has left a lasting impression on so many.

Thomas is survived by his adoring children, Karen (Greg) Ashmore of Hope, Sharon Burgess of Warren, Marie Anderson of Sterling Heights and Susan (Patrick) McDonnell of Grand Rapids; seventeen grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren; brothers Joseph (Barbara), Richard (Kathie), Robert (Nancy), Edward (Susan) and David; brother-in-law Robert Toteff; many nieces, nephews and wonderful friends. Thomas was predeceased by his beloved son, Timothy; sister-in-law Yvonne Toteff and brother and sister-in-law George and Loretta Toteff. Thomas was a faithful servant of God and a devoted Husband, Father, Papa, Great Papa, Brother, Uncle and Friend. Visitation for Thomas will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 P.M. Funeral services will take place on Friday at Our Lady of Hope Parish - St Cecilia Site with Father Tom Held officiating. Visitation will be from 10 A.M. to

the time of service at 11 A.M.. A luncheon will follow at the Clare United Methodist Church. On-line guestbook at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanhf@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Visitation

FEB **25**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanhf@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Visitation

FEB **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Service

FEB **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

CA

“ *For my friend - Tommy Miller*

We met in high school-the four of us. Tom loved Mary Ann and Bud loved me. Our families were always connected. Marie is my Godchild-the best you could ever ask for. Bud and I followed the Miller's to Baker Acres and we all had so much fun. Tom and Bud played shuffleboard and won many trophies. Now they are both gone. Tom had a piece of my heart and will always be remembered in my prayers.

With love, Carol

Carol - February 27, 2016 at 06:59 AM

MJ

“ *Maryann & Family; We will truly miss your man, TOM. A true family man if ever there was one. May the love of God give you strength during this difficult time in your families lives. We will remember everyone in our prayers.*

Deacon Marion & Yvonne Jurewicz

Marion Jurewicz - February 25, 2016 at 02:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



February 25, 2016 at 01:50 PM

JS

“ Dear Mary Ann, your daughters, and the family.
We want you to know that we are sending all our love and sympathy to all of you at this very sad time. We're sorry we cannot be there, but know we are thinking of all of you in spirit.
To Karen & Greg Ashmore, and our son-in-law Jason, love you and so sad for you.
Parents of Jenny Sardelli Field
Joe and Janet Saredelli

Janet Sardelli - February 25, 2016 at 12:04 PM

PA

“ 7 files added to the album Pictures from Paula



Paula - February 25, 2016 at 11:45 AM

KP

“ Uncle Tom stopped by our place on Big Bass Lake last summer and we loved every minute of his warm smile and funny stories. After a few slow times around the lake on the pontoon boat he asked us to "open this baby up and see what she's got!" So like Uncle Tom wanting to go faster!

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family. He was a special person and will be missed greatly!

Our love,
Kathy and Jerry

Kathy Passiak - February 25, 2016 at 10:11 AM

DD

“ R.I.P Tom, may God bless you and your family. Dan



Dan Dettloff - February 25, 2016 at 09:20 AM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.



February 25, 2016 at 08:50 AM

PM

“ *Paula McConnell lit a candle in memory of Thomas A. Miller*



Paula McConnell - February 24, 2016 at 09:04 PM

JS

“ *Jill Smith lit a candle in memory of Thomas A. Miller*



Jill Smith - February 24, 2016 at 08:23 PM

JS

“ *"Aunt Mrs. Marie," ... Our love, thoughts, and prayers to you and your family. Tom was one of a kind, and will be missed greatly! His legacy will live forever, and I am beyond grateful for knowing him! With love, Jill, Chad, and Walker Smith!*

Jill Smith - February 24, 2016 at 08:22 PM

DB

“ *Diana, John, Mark & Nancy, Wayne & Babe, Bonny & Bret purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



Diana, John, Mark & Nancy, Wayne & Babe, Bonny & Bret -
February 24, 2016 at 07:08 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



February 24, 2016 at 04:30 PM

DM

“ Tom Miller is one of my uncles, one of my dad's five brothers. He has always been one of my true heroes, and I consider him to be an iconic figure in my family. I never did meet my grandfather, but my Grandma Miller was just an unbelievable human being. She possessed more character, and strong emotional capabilities, and loving values than just about any person I can think of in my lifetime. I hold my Uncle Tom in the same regard as Grammy.

Aunt Mary Ann, you are in all of my thoughts and prayers. You have no idea how much your warmth, kindness, and human spirit have personally meant to me throughout my lifetime. Uncle Dave mentioned how Tom was the perfect brother, well I've always considered Uncle Tom and yourself to be the perfect aunt and uncle. Your qualities of character have impacted my adult life, and how I wish others to perceive me as a human being until the end of my physical days. I love you very much Aunt Mary Ann.

The thing to me that goes along with a person's quality of character, is simply what I call being "real." I don't think I have ever met a more real person in my own personal life, than Uncle Tom. As several have already mentioned- the sense of humor, the dedication to his family, and his unwillingness to complain about his own health, even in the most trying of times, make Tom a truly beloved person to everybody. It has never been about himself, and has always been about his family, and those around him. Uncle Tom you are, and will always be: my inspiration, my hero, my role model. I will sorely miss seeing you in this physical world, but your gifts will continue to resonate throughout my mind and soul for the rest of my living days. I am sure Tim was ready to welcome you to Heaven with open arms this time around. I love you very much Uncle Tom.

Being the true icon that he is, my Uncle Tom has left behind a wonderful legacy. That legacy consists of my Aunt Mary Ann, and my four cousins. Karen, Sharon, Marie, and Susan- you guys mean the world to me, and even if we weren't family, if I had met each of you another way, I'm positive I would consider all of you kindred.

Each of you possesses qualities of character and realness that have assisted me greatly, especially in my adult, post marriage years.

Karen, you are truly one of the wisest, most compassionate people I know. Thank You for being there for me. Your advice during my divorce helped get me where I am today. You have the same gift of wisdom, and humility that your dad always had. I love you very much Karen.

Sharon, you are one of the strongest, most passionate fighters that I know. I greatly admire your determination in battling life's difficulties. Thank You for being there for me. You helped me find strength during some of most depressing times due to my disability. You have the same determination and inner beauty that your dad always had. I love you very much Sharon.

Marie, you are one of the kindest, most family-oriented people that I know. Your confidence, humor, and driving spirit have always meant so much to me. Thank You for being there for me. You have the same family values, and "firecracker" spirit that your dad always had. I love you very much Marie.

Susan, I have always felt this amazing emotional bond with you. Perhaps it is because you are my closest cousin in age, but more likely it is because there is an incredible easiness, and spiritual sense that I feel when I am in your company. The world just seems right when I talk to you. You make things so comfortable through genuine caring, and listening. You have also always reminded me a great deal of Grammy in this sense. Thank You for being there for me. You have the same values of caring and making people feel comfortable that your dad always had. I love you very much Susan.

If I can be even half the human being, and leave half the legacy that Tom left, I will consider myself truly blessed. I will miss you Uncle Tom.

Love, Doug M.

Douglas Miller - February 24, 2016 at 04:16 PM

LS

“ *Love, Paula, Jeff, Josh, & Sarah purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



Love, Paula, Jeff, Josh, & Sarah - February 24, 2016 at 01:28 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



February 24, 2016 at 11:31 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



February 24, 2016 at 10:28 AM

AD

“ I can't imagine another moment without my Papa! He was always there to pick me up, stopping into my work- strutting his handsome self, walking in with that smile that lit up the whole room, with Grammy on his side. He couldn't wait to see his 3 grandchildren, but first he would wrap me in his arms and ALWAYS tell me how beautiful I was, he surely had a way of making me feel like I was so special and always let me know how much he loved me! He planted these great big kisses on my lips (and ALWAYS had altoids!) Anytime I smell those, I'll think of him ;)

If ever I had faded or holey jeans, he would tease me and pull my arm saying he was taking me shopping because my clothes were falling apart. So one time I called his bluff and said "let's go, right now! You keep saying it, you're taking me!"and pulled his arm ;) and sure enough they took me shopping, but our styles were VERY different and he was a bit stubborn and only wanted to buy the things he liked....I was extremely grateful though! But he sure was bossy! I can still hear grandma "Thomas, you leave her alone, she can get that shirt if she wants it!";)

My favorite memories of up north from when I was little are his motorcycle rides of course! Boy does he have a lead foot! Wee haw! The tractor rides when we all piled in the wagon with blankets and he would go down the huge hill right towards the river! Pretty sure I tinkled in my pants a few times! The bonfires and mom's ghost stories, and we can't forget the worm song we sang "cut their heads off, suck their juices out, throw their heads away"! Or the tree forts, swimming in the river, ponderosa....the list goes on and on!

We are so lucky to have the relationship that we have with Papa, and my children had an unbelievable relationship as well with their great papa! We will cherish this until we meet again!

I can't believe I won't hear his voice every week, or touch his skin, or hug him for a long time.I'm so happy he isn't suffering anymore, but miss him already!

Angie Morgan- Karen's Daughter - February 24, 2016 at 09:54 AM

WT

“ *Aunt Mayo, Karen, Sharon, Marie and Suzie, and all of your family... I was deeply saddened to hear of Uncle Toms passing. It was a date I will not forget either.*

Even though we haven't seen each other in years, I can still hear the laugh and see the smile like we visited yesterday.

Love you all and I am so sorry. Praying for you all.

Wayne

Wayne Toteff - February 23, 2016 at 10:48 PM

DM

“ *Tom was truly a man for all seasons. If a template could be made for the perfect brother, it was used by God to make Tom. He was a complete stand up guy. While he hated the nickname "Toes", he was always on his toes in keeping his family protected and well until the end. While my memories of him are very limited in the early years, they are quite vivid and great since. I will miss you until the end my Brother. Love, Dave.*

Dave Miller - February 23, 2016 at 10:37 PM

LR

“ *Love Taylor Roland purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



Love Taylor Roland - February 23, 2016 at 07:42 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



February 23, 2016 at 07:30 PM



“ *Tom “The Bomb”*

That’s what they called him back in high school – and apparently for good reason. I was his next younger brother but still six years behind him. A lot of what I “know” about Tom from his high school days is in the nature of legend. Antics, antics, antics. Then Mary Ann entered the picture. That’s the definition of what we would now refer to as a game changer.

From what some would term a “cutup” to a serious family man and father, Tom provided many examples of how to live life. He brought the good stuff to his five kids and the still growing brood of offspring. I’d call that a legacy.

He ran the race, he cleared the hurdles, and now he can enjoy the winner’s circle. Well done my brother.

Rick Miller

Rick Miller - February 23, 2016 at 03:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



February 23, 2016 at 03:12 PM



“ *Loved ya big Bubba. Love all your girls: had a crush on Mary Ann the first time she baby-sitted me and Dave. I'm actually closer in age to all the babies; Karen, Sharon, Timmy (R.I.P.), Marie, except Susie who is 14 years younger than me, as I was to Tom. There is a big hole in the universe now, that only time and love for our family can begin to fill.*

Brother Ed - February 23, 2016 at 02:08 PM

“ My Brother Tom

Tom was married at the very tender age of 18 when I was just 11 so he wasn't "at home" for very much of my early life. But he left a huge imprint on those years. He took me fishing, shared a bedroom with me in our house on Violet, introduced Rick and me to the joys to be found in the woods and county ditch (!!!) of our rural neighborhood, showed us how to paint "flares" on the fenders of our bikes, wrestled us 2 against 1 --- I'll never forget when he came home the first time after being married how he took us upstairs and payed us a quarter each (a huge windfall back then) if we would let him punch us in the shoulder. Apparently he felt that it wasn't legal for him to "abuse" us any more since he didn't live with us. He provided probably the greatest memory of my youth the Christmas of 1952. I didn't realize it at the time but we were a relatively poor family. Our typical Christmas gifts were socks, maybe a sweater, a book, an inexpensive game. But that year under the tree for Rick and I were long slender packages that contained --- omigosh are you kidding me???!!! --- Daisy B-B guns, courtesy of Tom and his paper route.

He was always hustling at odd jobs, from setting bowling pins to stenciling addresses on mailboxes to stocking the shelves at Pierce's Market --- not knowing it at the time but being a role model who showed his younger brothers what an incredible work ethic was like. And when he was no longer able to work, he showed us the strength and dignity that allowed him to survive so many serious health problems. I never heard him complain about any of them, except to chide his brothers that they owed him big time for taking on all of the illnesses of the family. Rest in peace Big Bro, you've earned your place in Heaven. We love you.

Bob





Bob Miller - February 23, 2016 at 12:54 PM

BE

“ *Maryann and family, We are sorry for your loss of Tom. He was such a nice person. We met Maryann and Tom at Baker Acres. We were neighbors at one time. Keeping the family in my prayers. Barney & Pat Elletson*



Barney & Pat Elletson - February 23, 2016 at 09:51 AM

MR

“ *THE BEIERMAN POKER CLUB BEGAN OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO BY EIGHT ORIGINAL RESIDENTS WHO LIVED ON BEIERMAN STREET IN WARREN MI. EVEN TODAY, NONE OF OUR MEMBERS LIVE IN WARREN, BUT WE CARRY THE ORIGINAL NAME OF " THE BEIERMAN POKER CLUB IN RESPECT FOR ALL THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS WHO ALL LIVED IN THE ST.MARK CHURCH COMMUNITY.TOM MILLER HAS BEEN A MEMBER FOR OVER 25 YEARS AND LIVED THE FARTHEST IN FARWELL MI..TOM ALWAYS MADE OUR MONTHLY GAMES WHILE IN MICHIGAN, AND WAS ONE OF THE BEST POKER PLAYERS EVER AND WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: MIKE ROMANCHIK,RAY SHOLY,JERRY WARREN,DON NORAT,JOE ZACCAGNI,MARION JUREWICZ AND NEW SUB TONY. WE ESPECIALY WILL MISS TOM AND MARYANN HOSTING THE ANNUAL JULY POKER GAME IN FARWELL, CONSISTING OF MEMBERS AND WIVES, POKER, GOLF, DINNER AND TRIP TO MT. PLEASANT CASINO AND BREAKFAST ON THE MORNING OF DEPARTURE TOM WE KNOW YOUR IN A BETTER PLACE NOW-----SAVE US A PLACE AT YOUR POKER GAME WHEN WE ALL JOIN YOU-----THE GOOD LORD WILLING.*

MIKE ROMANCHIK - February 22, 2016 at 10:32 PM

JM

“ Tom will be missed by us all. I always looked forward to seeing his smile. The man could light up a room! He was always easy going, laughing, joking - making everyone feel at ease. Someone once said that you can tell a lot about a person by how they treat children and animals. This was so true with Tom.

Love,
Jay Miller

Jay Miller - February 22, 2016 at 05:21 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jay Miller - February 22, 2016 at 05:18 PM

DM

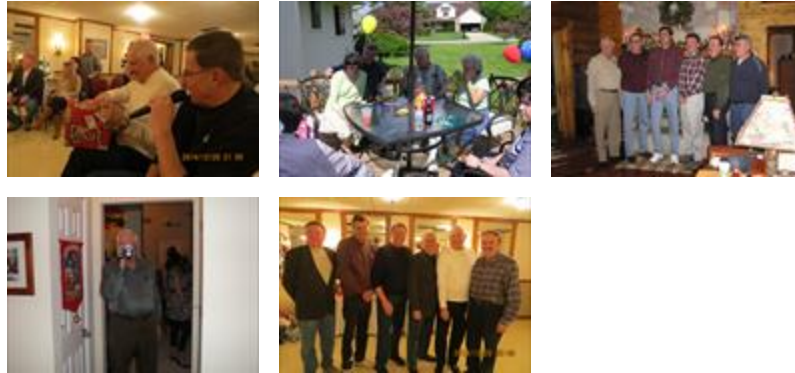
“ Douglas Miller lit a candle in memory of Thomas A. Miller



Douglas Miller - February 22, 2016 at 05:13 PM

PB

“ 6 files added to the album *Pictures from Paula*



Paula Baird - February 22, 2016 at 04:15 PM

AN

“ *Andersons purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



Andersons - February 22, 2016 at 02:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Miller.*



February 22, 2016 at 10:14 AM

JM

“ Barbara and I would like to send our deepest condolences to Mary Ann, Karen, Sharon, Marie, Susie and the whole larger immediate clan of whom Tom was so proud.
I knew Tom for 78 years and there was never a dull moment. I got the first licks in by jumping on his crib when he was about 1 yr old dropping the mattress to the floor with him on it.
After that were many practical jokes which continued to the end. Tom was a good man, he will be sorely missed. He was my bro.

Joseph Miller - February 22, 2016 at 08:56 AM



“ Shar Burg lit a candle in memory of Thomas A. Miller

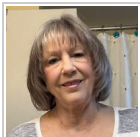


Shar Burg - February 21, 2016 at 02:16 PM



With love, Dad.

Shar Burg - February 21, 2016 at 02:17 PM



“ Shar Burg sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas A. Miller



Shar Burg - February 21, 2016 at 02:15 PM