



Thomas Edward Kopke

July 7, 1945 - February 21, 2025

ADRIAN- Thomas “Tom” Edward Kopke, age 79, died peacefully at home under the care of Hospice of Lenawee and surrounded by the love of his children on February 21, 2025.

Tom was born on July 7, 1945, the youngest son of Paul K. and Mary A. (Edwards) Kopke’s two sons. He graduated from Sand Creek High School in 1963 and continued his education at Stautzenberger College earning an associate’s degree.

On March 23, 1974, Tom married Judith F. Cole at the Holloway Presbyterian Church. They were blessed with four daughters and all the excitement that comes with having all girls. Tom and Judi celebrated over 50 years together before her death on July 3, 2024.

For over 30 years Tom worked as a cabinet maker at the Merillat cabinetry plant in Adrian. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Adrian. Tom was known for his sense of humor and always had a joke ready to share. He enjoyed bowling when he was younger and was a loyal “Detroit Sports Fan” cheering on all the teams.

He will be missed by his daughters, Michelle Blackerby (Roger Schwab), Elizabeth Sterling (Jason Warner) Jennifer (Daks) Meredith and Amy (Scott)

Wisniewski; grandchildren, Jacob Meyers, Falcon Hassenzahl, Caitlin Yape, Hannah Kopke, Gavin Huet, Julian Clark, Nicholas Adams and Paul Adams; great-grandchildren, Wolf Hassenzahl and Covington Yape; and his mother-in-law, Jarrell Cole. In addition to his wife, Judi, Tom is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Kenneth Kopke; nephew, Gregory Kopke; and father-in-law, Norman Cole.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Adrian, with Rev. Scott Elliott officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 10:30 a.m. until the service begins. Burial will occur at Oakwood Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lenawee.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, where online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAR 11. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
156 E. Maumee Street
Adrian, MI

Memorial Service

MAR 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
156 E. Maumee Street
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Edward Kopke.*



March 10, 2025 at 01:00 PM



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

March 10, 2025 at 01:00 PM



“ *beth lit a candle in memory of Thomas Kopke*



beth - March 03, 2025 at 08:59 AM



“ *When my husband taught and coached at SC he made an instant friend in Tom. He followed the Aggies and always had compliments for John. When my son and daughter were part of our family Tom always made time for them. When I would see him years later he was such a bright light in my day, adding a bear hug, and happy thoughts. I'll miss you r beautiful soul. Michelle Moore*

Michelle X Moore - February 26, 2025 at 09:32 PM

CS

“ I was part of the Sand Creek class of '66. Being part of a small school, I remember Tom and saddened to read of his death.

May he rest in peace.

Calvin Schuch - February 25, 2025 at 01:44 PM

BE

I'm one of Tom's daughter thank you for great memory of him.

beth - March 03, 2025 at 08:58 AM

DK

Tom and I go back as far when they moved to Sand Creek. He became my brother-in-law brother. Had good times with Tommie. Coming home from Weston one night and hit a horse, Tommie wreck the van, bad thing was his folks were on vacation and his grandparents were running store. Everything turned out ok ,but his grandfather razz him until his folks came home

Duane Kronberg - March 09, 2025 at 05:31 PM

JG

“ When I was 10 years old and "Tommy" was probably 14 years old, he wanted to work on the farm. My uncle Bob Anderson let him help do some baling. So Tommy joined the baling operation. My cousins, Mike Anderson and Rich Simpkins were stacking the bales. Bob said Tommy could drive the tractor. So he got on the tractor, when he let out the clutch like a race car driver. In the process, the bales on the wagon flew off onto the ground behind the wagon. The cousins laughed their head off. After a few minutes of getting our butts chewed out by Uncle Bob, we knew not to laugh again. After the embarrassing moment, Tom got back on the tractor and finished the job. He actually worked all summer doing farm jobs for Uncle Bob. Tom was a good guy and we had many fun memories.

Jack Griffith

Jennifer Griffith - February 24, 2025 at 06:32 PM

AC

“ *Adrian First Presbyterian Church lit a candle in memory of Thomas Kopke*



Adrian First Presbyterian Church - February 24, 2025 at 10:49 AM