



Thomas Joseph Reif

March 4, 1944 - September 19, 2015

Obituary for Thomas J. Reif

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, Thomas Joseph Reif, age 71, died on Saturday, September 19, 2015. After an 8-month battle with lung cancer, he peacefully entered into eternal life at his home with his wife and four children holding his hand.

Born March 4, 1944 in Grand Rapids, MN to Jane (Litcher) and Myles Reif, Tom was the third of seven children. He graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1962, participating in numerous athletic and extra-curricular activities. Tom attended St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, graduating in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. While at St. John's, Tom was a member of ROTC, and upon graduation, Tom enlisted in the United States Army. As a 1st Lieutenant in the Military Police, Tom served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. After fulfilling his commitment, Tom was honorably discharged and enrolled at William Mitchell College of Law. While in Law School, Tom was a Deputy Sherriff in Hennepin County. Tom graduated with his Juris Doctorate in 1973.

On June 26, 1971, Tom married Mary Jane Bina in Owatonna, MN. Upon graduation from law school, the couple moved to Alexandria, MN, where Tom practiced law and served as the Douglas County Attorney from 1974 to 1984.

Tom was a partner at the Thornton Law Office in Alexandria until his retirement in 2014. He served on the Alexandria School Board from 1986-1992 and had the honor of serving as Chairman of the School Board for his final two-year term.

Tom and Mary Jane raised their four children in Alexandria, and were avid Cardinal Athletic fans and supporters of the community. Tom was an active member of Saint Mary's Parish for over 40 years, serving on Parish Council.

Tom will be missed by many. His physical presence was not the reason he commanded a room. He was respected for his dedication to law, his pride for his family and his quick wit with his friends. Tom was an honest, fair man who believed in hard work, family, his faith in God & serving his community.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, John W. Reif and his in-laws, Harold and Jane (Kelly) Bina. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane, his children, Gretchen (Shane) Kray of Wausau, WI, Katie (Rick) Sansted of Alexandria, MN, Molly (Brent) Vigen of Laramie, WY, and Edward (Sarah) Reif of Alexandria, MN, 11 grandchildren (Peter, Myles, Jake, Sam, Kelly, Ellen, Grant, Teddy, Luke, Hazel and Alexander), brother William (Mary Nell) Reif of Wausau, WI, brother Jim (Diane) Reif of Naperville, IL, sister Mary (Doug) Heiken of Grand Rapids, MN, sister Anne (Terry) Finlay of Arden Hills, MN, and sister Jean (Mike) Geurts of Belleview, IL. Also survived by Robert (Patricia) Bina of Kempner, TX, Mark (Nancy) Bina of New Brighton, MN, Nancy (John) Schnese of Maple Grove, MN, Michael Bina of Owatonna, MN, and many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, September 25, 2015 at 11 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria. A visitation will be held on Thursday, from 4-7PM at the St. Mary's Catholic Church with Parish Prayers beginning at 7PM. Also a visitation will be held for one hour prior to the mass on Friday

at the church.

“Give thanks for all we’ve been given and march on with a smile in your heart.” - TJR

In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to be given in Thomas J. Reif’s name to either the Cardinal Athletic Foundation, Douglas Health Care Foundation or the Thomas J. Reif Memorial Scholarship.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

723 West Winona Dr.
Alexandria, MN 56308

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **24.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Prayer Service

SEP **24.** 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Visitation

SEP **25.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Memorial Mass

SEP **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
421 Hawthorne St
Alexandria, MN

Tribute Wall



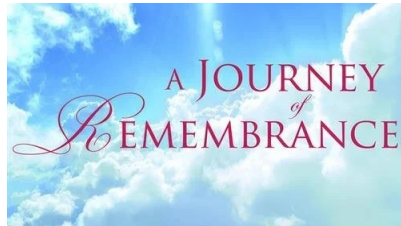
“ Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Joseph Reif



Anderson Funeral Home - September 29, 2015 at 09:30 AM



“ Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Joseph Reif



Anderson Funeral Home - September 24, 2015 at 04:06 AM

NI

Beautiful! A life well lived.

Nancy Kjostad Imm - September 24, 2015 at 04:49 PM

PD

“ *What a Man - to have Faithfully loved His Wife and Children - no greater gift and legacy than to Love Others and Be Loved. I know you all will miss him dearly - praying for peace as you grieve. May Jesus Promise of Life Eternal for all believers bring you Hope and Peace during this tough time.*

Patty Doyle & Family

Patty Doyle - September 25, 2015 at 07:48 AM

JH

“ *I am so saddened to learn of Tom's passing. He was a great help to me in dealing with some legal issues a few years back. He was always kind and respectful, and he had such an infectious sense of humor.*

God Bless you in your new eternal home.

*Jerry Haberer
Prescott Valley, Arizona*

Jerry Haberer - September 24, 2015 at 06:13 PM

JP

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Mary Jane and family. We know you have made great memories as a family. Keep them close and enjoy the memories together! Mike and Jan Pray and family*

Jan Pray - September 24, 2015 at 02:56 PM

NI

“ Fellow HS classmate, student leader, star athlete, high achiever academically, but always down to earth and well liked by his peers. Our loss is heaven's gain. We will miss Tom, one of our best. Keeping Mary Jane and family in my prayers.
Nancy Kjostad Imm, GRHS class of '62

Nancy Kjostad Imm - September 24, 2015 at 02:20 PM

TA

“ Tara and Jason Dunning and Kristy and Doug Ardinger purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.



Tara and Jason Dunning and Kristy and Doug Ardinger -
September 24, 2015 at 02:10 PM

GR

“ Tom was a great guy. Always friendly to me and of the boys, the one i liked the best, while growing up in G.R. Tom always was happy go lucky and always a kind word. I bought my first weight set from him for 20.00 \$. Played football with him in high school and attended the same church. This death is close to my heart. The world has lost something good. GENO ROTH

GENE ROTH - September 24, 2015 at 11:18 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.



September 24, 2015 at 09:18 AM



“ 65 files added to the album LifeTributes



Anderson Funeral Home - September 24, 2015 at 04:00 AM

MW

“ Mary Jane and family, we were so sorry to hear about Tom. Our sympathy to you during this difficult time. Kevin/Marilyn Weedman

Marilyn/Kevin Weedman - September 23, 2015 at 05:13 PM

TF

“ The Fuchs Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.



The Fuchs Family - September 23, 2015 at 03:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.



September 23, 2015 at 02:15 PM

KT

“ So sorry about Tom passing away. He was a great guy. You have our sympathy.
Ken and Tolly

Ken and Tolly Tessmer - September 23, 2015 at 01:18 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.*



September 23, 2015 at 11:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.*



September 22, 2015 at 10:04 PM

JM

“ *Mary Jane, I am so sorry to learn of Tom's passing. Fr. Don Talaious, alumni chaplain at St John's, sent out a notice. I hadn't seen Tom since we were at St. John's, but I remember him as an intelligent man with a refined sense of humor. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Kathy sends her regards to you also.*
~~John and Kathy Muellerleile

John Muellerleile - September 22, 2015 at 08:48 PM

TF

“ *The Goetz, Sulloff and Six Families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.*



The Goetz, Sulloff and Six Families - September 22, 2015 at 01:33 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.*



September 22, 2015 at 12:43 PM

JK

“ *Tom was a cherished member of the Grand Rapids High School Class of 1962. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.*

*Terry and Janice Kangas
Coleraine, Minnesota*

Janice Kangas - September 22, 2015 at 07:43 AM

ME

“ *Our deepest sympathy . Don and Merodie Johnson and the Mankey family.*

merodie - September 21, 2015 at 09:51 PM

DC

“ So very sorry to hear of Tom's death! Many memories of high school days in Grand Rapids! May the comfort of warm memories bring Tom's family peace in the days to come. Sending love and prayers to you all!!

Dianne (Preston) and Tom Corcoran

Dianne Corcoran - September 21, 2015 at 07:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Reif.*



September 20, 2015 at 10:11 PM

SJ

“ *Tom was a great family man who was entirely devoted to his wonderful family. In work and life, I learned much from him.*

And there were his many sayings. Like, "we have to slow motion this down." And "deny the allegations and defy the allegator."

He is gone much too early. Our best to Mary Jane and kids. Scott and Vicki Johnston

Scott Johnston - September 20, 2015 at 09:22 PM

BB

“Fond memory of Tom as having a great sense of humor. For many years, I would send Tom attorney jokes which I deemed as funny. Tom always took them with a sense of humor, but I am sure I went overboard with the jokes. I ran into Tom at ball game and we were chatting about basketball. He ended our conversation with the comment, " I have enough jokes to fill one file cabinet and please do not send me any more." He will be missed.

bruce berg - September 20, 2015 at 07:46 PM