



Thomas Robert Jankowski

February 1, 1947 - February 21, 2026

Thomas Robert Jankowski

Thomas Robert Jankowski, lovingly known as Tom, was born in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Victor and Sophie (Opinski) Jankowski. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Dorothy Kozyra, and his beloved son Ryan Jankowski.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years, Karen Jankowski. He was a proud and loving father to Todd (Stacey) Jankowski and his late son, Ryan Jankowski, and an adoring grandfather to Andrew and Katherine, who brought him immense joy.

Tom graduated from St. Anthony High School in 1965, where he met the love of his life, Karen. Their partnership and commitment to one another remained a cornerstone of his life.

Tom built a successful career in the grocery industry, working for several manufacturers as a regional sales manager. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing food brokers across various regions of the country. Though his work required extensive travel, Tom never let it distance him from what mattered most—his family.

An avid golfer, Tom also cherished time spent at their vacation home in Lost Lake Woods Club, where he enjoyed the beauty of Northern Michigan and the peaceful moments shared with family and friends. Tom had a special love for music, especially doo-wop and oldies. Many afternoons found him relaxing on his patio, singing along to the songs that brought back cherished memories. Above all else, he treasured being surrounded by family and spending time with those he loved.

Despite the demands of his career, Tom was deeply involved in his sons' lives. He managed and coached their baseball teams whenever possible and served as Commissioner of the Sterling Heights Boys Softball League, a role that reflected his dedication to youth sports and community involvement. He also served as president of his homeowners association and, during his sons' high school years, was President of the Sterling Heights High School Booster Club. You could always find Tom at a sporting event—working security, volunteering, or simply making sure everything ran smoothly.

Tom was known as a hardworking, dependable man who never hesitated to lend a hand to family, friends, or neighbors. His generosity, dedication, and steady presence left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Tom will be dearly missed and forever remembered. His love, laughter, and the sound of him singing along to his favorite songs will stay with us always.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice in Tom's name.

There will be a memorial mass on Monday, March 23, 2026. Instate 9:30 am until a 10:00 am memorial mass at St. Therese of Lisieux, 48115 Schoenherr

Rd, Shelby Township, MI 48315.

Previous Events

Instate in church

MAR **23**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
48115 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315

Memorial Mass

MAR **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
48115 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315

Tribute Wall

AK

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Tom’s passing. Working alongside him at General Mills was truly a privilege. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word, the kind of man who made everyone around him feel valued and respected.

And that handshake! Firm, warm, and genuine, it told you everything you needed to know about the man. You always walked away from a conversation with him feeling better than when it started.

He left a real mark on all of us who had the honor of knowing him. My thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. He will be deeply missed. May God illuminate his soul..

Arnie K - March 22 at 06:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Robert Jankowski.



March 22 at 06:25 PM

TF

“ The Snook Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas Robert Jankowski.



The Snook Family - March 22 at 12:45 PM

JK

“ Jim Kushon, I met Tom about 30 years ago. We both worked together with two companies over most of those years. From the first time I met Tom there was an instant friendship. We both enjoyed playing golf and tournaments at Lost Lake resort. You couldn't ask for a better friend or co-worker. I will miss him greatly and he was my best friend. Will meet again, someday.

Jim Kushon - March 14 at 07:58 PM

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Arnie K - March 22 at 03:42 PM

“ I met Tom and Karen about a year and a half ago, shortly after we bought the condo across from theirs. From the very beginning, it felt easy—like we had known each other longer than we had. We connected quickly over our shared love of tools, hard work, and Michigan State. (Go Green, Go White.)

When I learned that Tom had leukemia and that his time was limited, I was shocked and deeply saddened. Watching him work around his home and yard, you never would have known what he was facing. He stayed active, positive, and determined, meeting his illness with quiet strength, courage, and grace.

Tom was the kind of neighbor everyone hopes for, but few are lucky enough to have. He was always ready to help—whether that meant lending a tool, jumping into a project in my yard, or simply talking through the best way to get something done. Any time I was outside working, it seemed like Tom would appear, either offering a hand or sharing advice born from experience. And when he wasn't working, I'd often see him relaxing on his patio, listening to his favorite music or cheering on the Spartans. Those small, everyday moments are the ones I'll remember most.

One moment that really captures who Tom was stands out to me. I wanted to remove a tree stump, and Tom didn't just offer to lend me his chainsaw—he offered his chain saw but discovered it wasn't working so he go in his car and took it to Weingard's to have it repaired so we could finish the job together. In the winter, we shoveled snow and cleared our sidewalks and driveways side by side, we a shared understanding and the simple bond of being good neighbors.

Tom's faith was an important part of who he was. He believed deeply in God, and that faith shaped how he lived and how he faced the end of his life. He remained faithful until the very end.

Tom was more than a neighbor, he was a true friend—a helper, a

constant presence, and someone you could always count on. Thank you for welcoming us as neighbors and for sharing Tom with us—his kindness, strength, and friendship made our lives better, and he will always be remembered and deeply missed.

Karen, my thoughts and prayers are with you. May God surround you with comfort and peace, and may you always feel Tom's love and presence close to you.

May the peace of Christ be with you always. Josie

Josie Kempkens - March 02 at 04:53 PM

JM

What a lovely tribute to Tom. My parents were his neighbors before you bought their condo. I know my parents would agree immensely with your sweet thoughts. Judy (Giannone) Maraone

Judy Maraone - March 02 at 06:51 PM



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

March 01 at 03:17 PM

CB

“ I remember Larry Bak and other SAH class of '65 chums calling Tom.... Jinx Which I guess was short for Jankowski. What fun it was to be anywhere near the Tom of our youth! Rest in Peace nice man, faithful servant. 🙏

Connie Bak - February 26 at 10:02 PM

DH

“ Uncle Tom had such a great positive energy that was bigger than life. Every time we visited, he was upbeat, energetic, and made you feel welcomed.

No matter what age I was, even before reaching my teens, he always gave me a very firm handshake. Reminding me without words that, "this is how men greet each other". Along with my father, Tom was a great example of how to present yourself as a man.

Uncle Tom's personality filled the room. He was a big guy with a big personality. You couldn't help but listen to his stories and groan at his jokes. But it wasn't a personality that was selfish. On the contrary, Tom was always ready to listen and was genuinely interested in getting to know how I was doing whenever I was willing to share.

I know Tom was a great role model for Todd and Ryan. I see how driven Todd is to be the best at what he does. I see how committed Todd is to being a good husband and a good father. Todd even has that larger than life personality. That is all a reflection of what a wonderful husband and father Tom was to his family.

Derek Hobart - February 24 at 05:57 PM



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

February 24 at 05:11 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Robert Jankowski.



February 24 at 05:11 PM



“ Tom was a dear friend who brought me fun and laughter playing golf. He would constantly share family stories and his love for his wife, sons, and grandchildren was always evident in his conversations. He was a devoted husband and father. I admired his conviction and passion for his family. He was a very good man.

Dennis Mlynarek - February 24 at 04:31 PM



“ My name is Robert Brush known as Bob Brush by Tom and Karen. I met Tom while working at Stromberg Carlson United technologies telecommunications. I really like him more than any other employee. He was very technically smart and a super nice person. Tom was a motorcycle list and I believe semi pro rider and motocross. He loved Yamaha's. I was thinking about him last week and then Friday, Saturday and yesterday. I was hoping not to find him here. Tom, you never hung around and laughed at my jokes. You just turned around and walked away with a tooth I smile. I cherish our friendship. RIP.

If Karen would like to my telephone number is 310-896-8391. Last I saw Tom and Karen was at work and 1976 I believe.

Rob BRUSH - February 23 at 11:48 AM

AH

“*My Uncle Tom. Words can't even begin to describe what a loving and fun character he is. He loved to let my sister and I sit on his lap when we were kids and read to us. When I was 8 years old, he took my sister and I had to see Disney's Aladdin at the movie theater. I still remember driving with him in his Ford Aerostar to and from the theater and to this day, that is one memory I will cherish for the rest of my days. The many trips to Uncle Tom and Aunt Karen's home at Lost Lake Woods were always nothing short of a good time. I remember when Uncle Tom, Ryan and I think Todd and my dad on one of those unforgettable trips up north, took my sister and I to Sucker Creek where the Sucker Creek ghost was lurking in the forest. We were in the car, and the "ghost" came Running from the woods and started shaking the car. The ghost was Ryan and I think Todd. It was one of the funniest things looking back now!*

What I'll always remember about Uncle Tom is his devotion and love for his family. He would give you the shirt off of his back, without hesitation.

Uncle Tom, I love you and will miss you every day. You were a light in this world. But I know that you were welcomed home into the loving arms of Jesus, Ryan, your parents, and I know grandma and grandpa and my dad were there to meet you at the gate, too. Take care of them. And we will take care of your love, Aunt Karen.

Love,

Your Niece Allison

Allison Hobart - February 22 at 01:38 PM

JM

“ Tom was the best next door neighbor to my parents (Dominic and Virginia Giannone). Tom always made sure my parent’s grass or snow was taken care of. You could often find my Dad and Tom out on the patio listening to music and talking sports. After my Dad passed, Tom made sure my Mom was safe living alone in her condo. I was lucky enough to get to know Tom (and Karen) when staying with my parents and still kept in touch after my mom passed in August of 2024. Tom was such an attentive Dad to Ryan while he was battling Brain cancer. No more transfusions and pain. You certainly earned your ticket to Paradise.

Judy (Giannone) Maraone

Judy (Giannone) Maraone - February 21 at 08:20 PM

DR

“ I don’t think Mr. J ever met a stranger. He could move seamlessly from gently playing with kids to a full blown about football, fixing things, or really anything. He was the definition of a gentleman and will be missed.

Rest peacefully Mr. J and give Ray a hug for us all.

David Reed - February 21 at 06:59 PM