



Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel

January 4, 1934 - December 15, 2017

Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel, 83 year old resident of rural Little Falls, MN passed away Friday, December 15, 2017 at his home in rural Little Falls, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at St. James Catholic Church in Randall, MN with Father Tim Wenzel officiating and Father Jimmy Joseph con-celebrating. Burial will take place in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls, MN. A visitation will be held from 4-8 P.M. on Thursday and from 9:30-11:00 A.M. on Friday at St. James Catholic Church in Randall, MN. Parish prayers will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday evening in the Church. Funeral arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Tom was born on January 4, 1934 on the family farm in Darling Township, the third of 13 children born to Anthony and Anna (Danko) Wenzel. He was baptized at St. James Catholic Church in Randall, MN, where he was a lifelong member.

Tom attended grade school in a one-room schoolhouse in District #35 and graduated from Little Falls High School in 1952. Following graduation, he went to work for C.L. Nelson Construction in rural Randall. In 1953 Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army, taking his basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas, followed by two years of active duty in France. Upon his honorable discharge, he resumed working as a heavy equipment operator for C.L. Nelson for 20 years. At that

time he proudly took over the family farm; raising hogs, beef cattle, and his famous Wenzel sweetcorn. Tom strongly believed in public service and served on many boards including the Darling Township Board, Randall Co-op Creamery Board, and was a past Post Commander of the Randall VFW Post 9073. His shining achievement was being Morrison County Commissioner from District 1, a position he held for 20 years.

On November 23, 1972 Tom was united in marriage to Joy Ann Brecht at St. James Catholic Church in Randall. He was honored to become the father figure to Joy's four children and they joined him on his family farm. Later they were blessed with two additional children. Tom could often be found driving his gator around the farm, checking on his vegetable garden, tending to his flower gardens, and mowing the lawn.

Tom's family fondly remembers his adoring love for his wife, Joy, and his devotion to immediate and extended family. Also remembered is his sense of humor, humble integrity, common sense, and infectious smile that made everyone feel special.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Joy; children, Blaine (Gail) Brecht of Baxter, Cathy (Dan) Bygd of New Richmond WI, Steve (Chris) Brecht of Cold Spring, Danny (Jodi) Brecht of Plymouth, Amy (Jason) Opatz of Albany, Mary (Brian) Kalla of Albany, 13 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren. Tom will also be dearly missed by his siblings; Beverly LeMieur of Little Falls, Fr. Tim Wenzel of Randall, Tony (Judy) Wenzel of Randall, Kathryn (Danny) Knight of Olivia, Steve Wenzel of Little Falls, Mike Wenzel of Roseville, Jerry (Kathy) Wenzel of Randall, Anne (Ron) Bratton of Rochester and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; Anthony and Anna Wenzel; infant brother, Neil Wenzel; brothers, Larry Wenzel and Kenny Wenzel; sister,

Virginia Wenzel; brother-in-law, Kenneth LeMieur and sister-in-law, Jeanette Wenzel.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
405 East Minnesota Avenue
Randall, MN 56475

Visitation

DEC **22**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
405 East Minnesota Avenue
Randall, MN 56475

Service

DEC **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
405 East Minnesota Avenue
Randall, MN 56475

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - December 19, 2017 at 02:51 PM



“ *Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss Joy our prayers are with you and your family.*
Ron and Donna Ascheman

Ron & Donna Ascheman - December 22, 2017 at 11:22 AM



“ *Sandra Wenzel Schaumleffel lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*



Sandra Wenzel Schaumleffel - December 21, 2017 at 11:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.*



December 21, 2017 at 07:13 AM



“ *Tom was one of the nicest, most sincere guys I've ever known! He was also a great advocate of various improvement projects at St. James Catholic church in Randall. With great delight and pride, he recently told me about several fundraisers that he initiated or took over, that raised more \$ than expected because of his ingenuity, like selling ice cream cones cheap, that lead to nice big dinner sales later! So sorry for your sudden loss. Tom and family are in my thoughts and prayers. Tom Hanowski*

Tom Hanowski - December 20, 2017 at 04:49 PM



“ *Contance Gullickson lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*



Contance Gullickson - December 20, 2017 at 11:09 AM

SN

“ *Sandy Nelson lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*



Sandy Nelson - December 19, 2017 at 10:48 PM

TC

“ *Tom's friends on the St James Building Committee purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.*



Tom's friends on the St James Building Committee -
December 19, 2017 at 03:13 PM



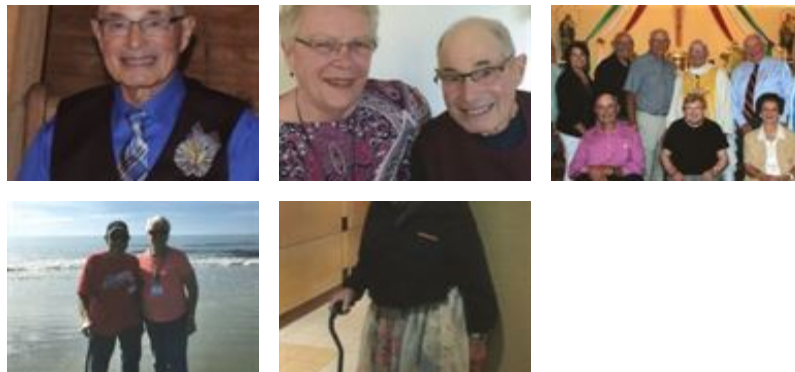
“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.*



December 19, 2017 at 03:03 PM



“ 54 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - December 19, 2017 at 01:44 PM

JL

“ *Jennifer & Nick Larson purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.*



Jennifer & Nick Larson - December 19, 2017 at 11:51 AM

JK

“ *Joy and Family,
Our sympathies to all of you during this sad
and difficult time. We will always remember
Tom with a smile on his face and a very
pleasant person to talk to.*



Joe & Faye Kallis - December 19, 2017 at 09:32 AM

JW

“ Tommy was my best friend! We shared many of the same interests and especially enjoyed each others sense of humor. He was humble, generous and gave freely of his time. He treated me like his own son. John MacArthur's quote sums up Tommy life... "only absolute humility can generate absolute love. It is the nature of love to be selfless and giving." I will miss you Tommy. Rest in peace dear brother and don't worry about anything. I'll take care of things around the farm. When I see a tractor, chain saw, gator, or your infectious smily, you're only a memory away. Love, your brother Jerry



Jerry Wenzel - December 19, 2017 at 09:27 AM

GT

“ gener8tor Team purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.



gener8tor Team - December 18, 2017 at 10:56 PM

CA

“ Courtney and Adam purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.



Courtney and Adam - December 18, 2017 at 10:51 PM

JR

“ I was able to have the nicest visit, even though it was short, with Tom on the Sunday before he left us to go home to His Lord. It was so nice to see him that day and see that big smile on his face. God's blessings and peace to you, Joy, and to the entire family.

Judith Rafevold - December 18, 2017 at 09:37 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.



December 18, 2017 at 08:47 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.



December 18, 2017 at 05:52 PM

SS

“ Steve And Brenda Smude lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel



Steve and Brenda Smude - December 18, 2017 at 03:35 PM

CM

“ Claudette Moran lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel



Claudette Moran - December 18, 2017 at 03:16 PM

KF

“ My heart is sad...he will be missed!

Kristin Jackson Fregin - December 18, 2017 at 10:44 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.



December 18, 2017 at 10:16 AM

CW

“ Craig Weidenbach lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel



Craig Weidenbach - December 18, 2017 at 09:24 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.



December 18, 2017 at 09:11 AM



“ Joy and family,
I'm so sorry for your loss. Tom was a wonderful man who gave so many loyal years to public service and was a good and loyal friend to me. He even got me on the PTA before I even had a kid in school. It wasn't very long ago that he still brought donuts to the office and have a short visit. I will remember him always as a dear friend. May God be with you and the kids as you deal with this loss.
Sincerely,
Helen McLennan

Helen McLennan - December 18, 2017 at 08:38 AM



“ Stan Dolores Wielinski lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel



Stan Dolores Wielinski - December 18, 2017 at 01:27 AM

KR

“ Thinking of you Mary and Family, so sorry for the loss of a man who sounded incredible!

Blessings, Krista and Michael Schmitz

Krista - December 17, 2017 at 04:10 PM

ML

“ Mike & Kathy Loerts lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel



Mike & Kathy Loerts - December 17, 2017 at 04:01 PM

CK

“ I will miss sharing pancake breakfast with Tom at SVTH. Such a loss for family and friends. God's blessings to the family. Marva

Carolyn Koenig - December 17, 2017 at 02:23 PM

SL

“ Shawn And Heidi Larsen lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel



shawn and Heidi Larsen - December 17, 2017 at 02:06 PM

DF

“ Our thoughts and prayers to the whole Wenzel family. Gods peace be with you all.

Dan & Connie Fenske - December 17, 2017 at 08:11 AM

DF

And his wonderful sweetcorn gave us and so many people years of enjoyment!! Connie

Dan & Connie Fenske - December 17, 2017 at 08:15 AM

JR

My sympathy to your family. Sending prayers, sympathy, and wishes for peace. Janet Ramler

Janet Ramler - December 17, 2017 at 07:50 PM

RB

“ *rest easy,tom*



richard berg - December 17, 2017 at 01:29 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel.*



December 16, 2017 at 10:25 PM

JS

“ *Hello the member family Tom Wenzel, I know him that one my favorite cousin and he have be good to me long time and glad to see all Wenzel family at Father Tim Wenzel for 50 years for three years ago. God bless you all from Jacqueline,RoseMarie Stich and her family and James and his family.*

Jacqueline Ann Stich - December 16, 2017 at 09:43 PM

JS

“ *Jacqueline Ann Stich lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*



Jacqueline Ann Stich - December 16, 2017 at 09:38 PM

JB

“ *So very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts & prayers with each of you during this trying time!!! Larry & Jeri Betts*



Jeri Betts - December 16, 2017 at 08:41 PM

WW

“ *Wendy Waltman sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*



Wendy Waltman - December 16, 2017 at 07:45 PM

JW

“ *Jerry & Faye Waltman lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" R. Wenzel*



Jerry & Faye Waltman - December 16, 2017 at 06:57 PM

BT

“ *What a loss to his family and friends. We will miss this gentle, friendly man, his smile and humor and presence.*

Bob and Sheri Thome - December 16, 2017 at 11:07 AM

CV

Tom was a comfort to me when he was at the mailbox and visited with me about my grandfather, who I never met! He would tell me about him, which made me smile! I loved this man and will surely miss him! God bless him with an eternity in heaven! Love, Cindy Vogt

Cindy Vogt - December 18, 2017 at 08:24 PM