



## Thomas Edward Reiser

October 15, 1942 - March 14, 2024

Thomas “Tom” Edward Reiser, 81, passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Memorial Medical Center with family by his side. Tom was born in Springfield, Illinois, on October 15, 1942, to Leo and Alvena (nee Devlin) Reiser. He was raised in Ashland and Havana, Illinois. He graduated from Havana High School in 1960 and went on to attend the University of Notre Dame. At Notre Dame, Tom met his wife of 54 years, Virginia “Ginny” Reiser. Ginny was a St Mary’s girl and the love of his life. While at Notre Dame, Tom built a Tandem bicycle that he and Ginny rode around both campuses. Tom graduated from the University of Notre Dame on June 7, 1964, with a degree in Finance. On August 8, 1964, Tom and Ginny married in Mount Clemens, Michigan, and settled into married life in a tiny house outside of Greenview, Illinois.

Tom began working with his Dad in the family's grain elevator business in Greenview. Eventually, his brother Bob would join them. The office at Reiser Grain was always a friendly place to stop in to hear the market report, partake in frozen treats or candy, buy your Purina pet food, eat lunch, attend an occasional wine tasting, and hang out with the Reiser family. The Grain elevator was sold in 1991, and Tom began a new career with the Catholic Diocese of Springfield as the Property and Facilities Manager. While working in this capacity, he helped oversee the building of many new churches and additions to parishes throughout the Diocese, but he was proudest of the

building of the Newman Center at Eastern Illinois University. Tom visited parishes throughout the central part of Illinois from Charleston to Alton and every small and large town in between. He knew the catholic churches in every community, the back roads and "shortcuts" to travel between communities, and the best local places to eat. He was especially good at finding the best pie places in central Illinois. His pie hunting was so legendary that his co-workers developed a pie road trip adventure at his retirement that would take him across the country.

Tom and Ginny raised 4 children in a house outside of Petersburg. He was the wrangler of the swimming pool that entertained his children every summer, he taught them to ride bikes, motorcycles, and lawnmowers. Tom was a solid handyman around the house fixing cars, dryers, plumbing, pinewood derby cars, and toys. He ensured ice cream was always in the freezer, jello blocks were made fresh daily, adventure was around every corner, and the TV antenna was tall enough to get all the TV stations. Tom always had an excellent camera and loved getting the newest electronics. He was a master of the grill. He was the driver on all family vacations and weekend adventures. Tom loved a road trip and drove from coast to coast; along the way, he was equally enthusiastic about a historical marker, battlefield, fort, mystery spot, lookout point, museum, amusement park, and local restaurant. He was everything a family could need, and his kids and grandkids embraced many of his passions.

Tom was an active member of St Peter's parish and the Knights of Columbus. He was also active in the Notre Dame Club of Central Illinois, serving in various capacities. Tom loved sharing his passion for the University of Notre Dame with all who would listen. He would take young local fans to the spring football game to experience a college campus and hoped they would begin to dream about possibilities. Tom was active in Boy Scouting for two decades, including 15 years as the Scoutmaster of Troop 54. He adventured with the

scouts around Illinois and down to the Jacks Fork River to canoe every year. He was proud of all his scouts but incredibly proud of the 6 Eagle Scouts he nurtured along the scouting path.

Tom's favorite title was Grandpa. He loved bragging about and hanging out with his seven grandchildren. He enjoyed adventures to the Wisconsin Dells, Disney, Universal Studios, California, and Cape Cod with the grandkids. Tom loved to take with grandkids to Sheels, play a skins game of mini golf, find a swimming pool to play in, train shows, Lincoln sites, and explore all the children's museums. He helped build tree forts and rocket launchers. Tom loved to share his Lionel trains and was happiest when running a train with a grandkid by his side.

Tom enjoyed a crop drive that ended in eating at a local restaurant, a Maidrite, Notre Dame, naps with a Dog, black diamond watermelons, his recliner chair, Root Beer, a good steak, any form of pie, ice cream, studying a map or atlas, Theatre in the Park, farms and farmers, knots, basketball, babies, power tools, sweetcorn, visiting with family and friends, going to a movie, rewatching Gunsmoke, a Krekel's hamburger, Petersburg, looking for cars, milkshakes, watching local high school sports, and hanging out with the grandkids. Tom lived a life full of kindness, service to others, and devotion to his family. He will be greatly missed.

Tom is survived by his four children, David (Teresa) Reiser of Petersburg, John (Mary Flynn) Reiser of Dania Beach, Florida, Martha L. Reiser of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Paul (Missy) Reiser of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is also survived by seven grandchildren; Hannah, Eli, Maureen, Liam, Noah, Ian, Luke, and numerous nieces and nephews. He is survived by his siblings Rosemary (Mike) Stepner of San Diego, California, and Bob (Martha) Reiser of Petersburg. He is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, his parents, and a

brother, William (Mary) Reiser.

A Celebration of Life will be held by Tom's family on Friday, July 26, 2024, at St. Peter Catholic Church, 711 S. 6th St, Petersburg, Illinois 62675, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A funeral mass will be held at the church on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 10:00 am with a luncheon immediately following. A graveside service will follow at St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery in Ashland, Illinois, at 2:00 pm. Cremation rites were accorded by Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, designated to the SIU School of Medicine Alzheimer Projects, Menard County Food Pantry, or St. Peter's Catholic Church in Petersburg.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery

Cemetery Road  
Ashland, IL 62612

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL 26. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter Catholic Church Parish Hall  
711 S. 6th St.  
Petersburg, IL 62675

## Funeral Mass

JUL 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter Catholic Church  
Petersburg, IL 62675

## Funeral Luncheon

JUL 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter Catholic Church Parish Hall  
711 S. 6th St.  
Petersburg, IL 62675

## Graveside Service

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JUL **27**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery  
Cemetery Road  
Ashland, IL 62612

# Tribute Wall

JT

“ We are so sorry, Martha and brothers. We wanted to come to visitation but Janene has a virus that none of you need at this time. Craig and Jeff Miller send their condolences, too.

My favorite memory of Tom was his saying when Jerry married me, “Oh good, fresh blood in Menard County.”

😊 We will be thinking of you all. Sincerely, Jerry and Janene and our family



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**Janene Tice** - July 28, 2024 at 12:33 PM

MA

“ My genuine condolences to Tom's kids and grandkids. What a lovely legacy.

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**Melissa Brauer Applebee** - July 26, 2024 at 02:45 AM

PV

“ Our sincere condolences to all of Tom's family. We have enjoyed Tom's friendship over the years in many ways - from times with our church community as well as mentor and Scout Master. We have fond memories of both Tom and Ginny and know that he will be missed but that he also had a wonderful life. Mike & Pat Vig

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**Pat Vig** - March 22, 2024 at 09:22 PM

LC

“ *Lanette Crum lit a candle in memory of Thomas Reiser*



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**Lanette Crum** - March 19, 2024 at 11:06 PM

DW

“ *My sincere sympathy to the whole family. Such great memories from my growing up years when the Leo Reiser family would do things with mine!*

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**David Winkelmann** - March 19, 2024 at 02:43 PM

BH

“ I have known Tom and his family for 50 years, first as my scoutmaster and later I was able to work with Tom for 20 years. As I became an adult, Tom became one of my best friends.

*His love and relationships with his wife, Ginny, his children, grandchildren, his siblings, his Catholic Church and his friends (Tom never met a stranger, ever!) is unparalleled. Both in work and in life, he often took on and tackled problems that no one else could or would attempt to solve.*

*I always looked forward to business trips with Tom because you knew that you were going to meet new people, hear new (or old stories), learn a new back road, and, if lucky, discover a longstanding place to eat lunch and pie or any desert. There were also fish fries and the legendary reserving of the \$.50 pieces of pie at St. Pat's Parish in Springfield.*

*I mourn Tom's death, but I am grateful and happy for Tom's shared life and for his wonderful family.*

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**Brad Huff** - March 19, 2024 at 09:40 AM

LH

“ Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Edward Reiser



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**Larry and Mary Hundt** - March 19, 2024 at 08:46 AM

PG

“ *Condolences to Tom's family. I have many fond memories of Tom and Bob attending functions at Cargill, daily conversations while calling bids or purchasing grain. He was a great guy and enjoyed listening to his stories. Someone like Tom is never forgotten by those he shared his time with, and so I know that those who loved him will feel his absence greatly. Prayers to each to find comfort in his memories.*



Patricia Gilbreath - March 18, 2024 at 10:10 PM

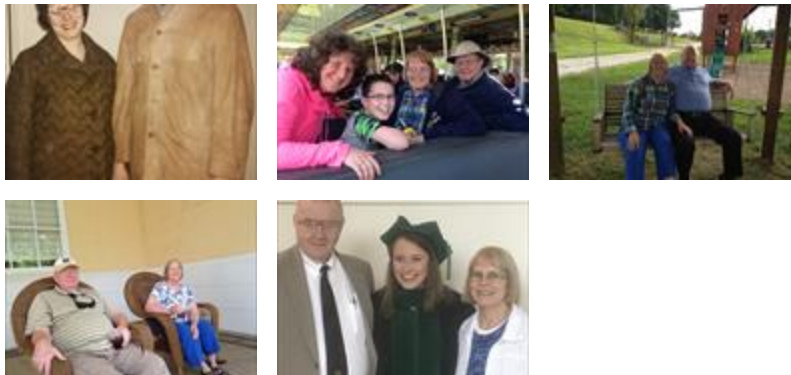
JN

*It has been many years since I seen Tom after leaving Petersburg. My association with him as an untrained Scout wmaster, a parisher of St. Peter's always brings found memories. Tom was an exceptional kind person who will always be remembered foundly by me. My deepest sympathy to his family. John Nosari*

John Nosari - March 19, 2024 at 01:15 PM

MR

“ *22 files added to the tribute wall*



Martha Reiser - March 18, 2024 at 01:30 PM



“ *I was fortunate to know Tom through the Notre Dame Club of Central Illinois. I always enjoyed talking Notre Dame and Hannah with him. I will miss him.*

*Conrad Rubinkowski*

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**Conrad Rubinkowski** - March 18, 2024 at 11:30 AM



*I knew Tom from high school here in Havana. He was president of our senior class I believe. A few few years ago as an RN I had the pleasure of getting to know Ginny.*

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**Marilou Carolyn (nee Ortman ) Gaw** - March 21, 2024 at 05:04 PM