



Robert William Thomas

May 17, 1955 - May 27, 2025

Robert "Bob" William Thomas, a man referred to by his children as "The Mayor," died on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, after a battle with ALS. Bob, 70, of Charlotte, formerly of Gwinn, MI was born on May 17, 1955, the son of Clarence and Janetta (Medlyn) Thomas. He graduated from Negaunee High School in 1974. In school, Bob was very involved in sports. He played basketball, football, track, and fast-pitch softball. In his younger years Bob enjoyed the summer spent at their family camp on Big Shag Lake in Gwinn. On April 28, 1989, Bob married his former high school classmate, Nita Koski, and together they spent the next 36 years creating many lasting memories. Being born and raised in the U.P., Bob was a huge Green Bay Packers and Detroit Tigers fan, although he did enjoy U of M football and MSU basketball. Many will remember Bob for his jokester personality and his ability to strike up a conversation with anyone that he crossed paths with. In 2018, Bob and Nita moved to Charlotte to be closer to their grandchildren. He loved spending any time he could with them and enjoyed watching their sporting events. Bob loved his dog Tai, and his grand-dogs, Tank and Maverick. He found great comfort in having them around.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Nita; children, Danielle (Wayne) Thomas of Dallas, TX, Kenna (Gus) Farrach of Dallas, TX, Amy (Travis) VanAlstine of Charlotte, MI, Jeramie (Susan) Soderberg of Midland, MI, and Jason (Kendall) Soderberg of New Ulm, MN; 23 grandchildren; siblings, Jane Nordeen of

Gwinn, MI, Sally (Archie) Mitchell of Ishpeming, MI, Richard (Barbie) Thomas of Gwinn, MI; sister-in-law, Marilyn Thomas; and numerous nieces and nephews that he loved dearly. He was predeceased by his parents; and brothers, John Thomas, and Jim Thomas.

Friends are encouraged to support Bob's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. A visitation will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter (UPAWS). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **31**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert William Thomas*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 30, 2025 at 03:47 PM

TH

“ *Nita- I was saddened when I came across Bob's obituary. He was a lot of fun to work with and I enjoyed the time he was involved with Lakestate. I'm glad I was able to meet you both. Big hugs -*

Tami Hector - July 26, 2025 at 06:31 PM

TB

“ *Praying for strength, comfort and peace to you Nita and your family. I remember Bobby being in my classes all through my younger years. Then when we were in high school, all the parties and get togethers out at his dad's camp. When you said, Bob didn't deserve this, that certainly says it all. So very sad but his suffering is over and we will see him again one day. Love across the miles, my friend.*

Trish Hill Barnes - June 01, 2025 at 12:00 PM

MT

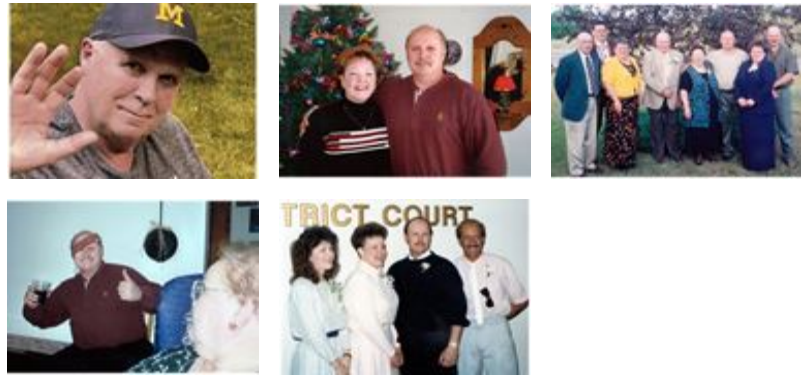
“ Sincere condolences, Bobby was a great guy, here are a few sports photos from his senior year at Negaunee .



Mark Trehwella - June 01, 2025 at 06:44 AM



“ 39 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 30, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert William Thomas.



May 30, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert William Thomas.



May 30, 2025 at 09:10 AM



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

May 30, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ Danial and JoAnna Rooker purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Robert William Thomas.



Danial and JoAnna Rooker - May 30, 2025 at 08:51 AM



“ Danial and JoAnna Rooker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert William Thomas.

Danial and JoAnna Rooker - May 30, 2025 at 08:51 AM

TW

“ Nita and Family, I’m so very sorry to learn the sad news about the loss of Bob. I remember him being a happy, friendly guy and he was liked by everyone. May your good memories help to ease your sadness. Thinking of you.

Tina (Simula) Weiland - May 29, 2025 at 10:36 PM

SA

“ Nita and Family, so sorry to read about Bob’s passing. I worked with Bob at North Star Academy. There was never a quiet hallway in the summer, when Bob was cleaning or hauling furniture. I loved listening to his “quiet and gentle” ways of working with his staff. Years later I ran into him at Gwinn schools and we chuckled about the one spat we had and caught up on Packer talk. He is sure to give God an earful, praying for him and all of you.

Stephanie Abata

Stephanie Abata - May 29, 2025 at 09:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert William Thomas.



May 29, 2025 at 12:51 PM

LS

“ Love, Staci & Steve Szuch purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Robert William Thomas.



Love, Staci & Steve Szuch - May 29, 2025 at 12:39 PM

RO

“ Dear Nita and family, I am very sorry to hear of Bobby's passing. Sending my condolences. May you be comforted knowing that many people are thinking and praying for you. Rosemary (LaJoie) Larson

Rosemary - May 29, 2025 at 07:45 AM