

Thomas Patrick Kay

November 15, 1946 - June 27, 2025

Thomas Patrick Kay, 78, of Wyoming, MI, formerly of Vermontville, died peacefully on Friday, June 27, 2025 with his son by his side. Tom was born November 15, 1946 in Lansing, the son of Paul Thomas and Doris Elizabeth (Healy) Kay. Tom enjoyed a happy childhood, participating in Boy Scouts, delivering newspapers, and attending Catholic Schools. He graduated from Msgr. John A. Gabriels High School (Lansing Catholic) in 1965 and briefly attended the seminary before deciding on another course in life. He went on to earn a bachelor degree in Management of Human Resources from Spring Arbor University and settled in St. Ignace, MI, where he started his career in Community Mental Health and opened his own health food store.

Tom married the love of his life, Linda Sue Baird, on February 4, 1978. Together they raised two sons, Brandon and Jonathon in Vermontville, MI. Tom was active in his son's lives, serving as Scout Master and assistant basketball coach for their teams. As a family, the Kay's enjoyed time in the outdoors, especially camping trips to the Upper Peninsula. Tom and Linda opened Natural Living Health Food Store on the West side of Lansing, which they owned and operated for 19 years together. All the while, Tom worked training and supporting mentally and physically challenged adults for the State of Michigan Community Mental Health. He retired after nearly 30 years.

Tom lived a life full of compassion. Throughout the years, he dedicated much of his time to humanitarian work, including co-founding Students for Migrant Workers, working with the church in serving the poor and needy in the Lansing migrant population. Many will remember Tom as a strong but gentle man who loved his family and devoted his life to the well-being of others.

Tom is survived by his son, Jonathon (Robin Meester) Kay; two grandchildren, Lillian and Jackson Kay; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family. He was predeceased by his wife, Linda Sue Kay in 2024; their beloved son, Brandon Kay in 2003; his brothers, Richard and Daniel Kay; and his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Tom's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Memorial Services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 12, 2025 at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte, MI. The service will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Tom's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smartphone). In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to Community Mental Health Clinton Eaton Ingham at <http://www.ceicmh.org/make-a-donation>. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Memorial

JUL 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Thomas Patrick Kay



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 11, 2025 at 07:17 PM

CB

Beautiful memories!

Carrie L Brown - July 12, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Patrick Kay



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 10, 2025 at 06:39 PM

CR

“ If you met Tom and his parents, you met angels on earth. I knew them oh so many years ago and never forgot them. I recently relocated to Mi. and learned of his death. I am sure he created the same beautiful family as the one to which he was born. To his son, my most heartfelt condolences. You are indeed blessed and I am sure your parents' and bother's love will sustain you. They are in heaven and will keep blessing you.

Cristina Bascuas Rowland - November 16, 2025 at 05:20 PM

“ My Uncle Tom was a big mentor and role model for me through out my life. He was always a very loving, gentle and compassionate man who always kept his cool. My Uncle Tom and Aunt Linda both opened up their home to me and my sister for a couple years during high-school and also let me stay with them on a few occasions since. For example when My Aunt Linda had gotten a deal on a double semi load of logs delivered to their house that ended up being over 60 something cords of wood after cutting, Splitting and stacking it all over the course of a summer and fall. My uncle Tom taught me how to sharpen a chainsaw correctly and about patience. Brandon and I always loved using the chainsaw but hated to stop and take the time to actually sharpen it which believe me isn't the most fun in the world and takes alot of patience sharpening one tooth at a time. But if you have ever used one you know that it is much easier to cut logs when the chain is sharp and by taking the time to do it right you will actually save time cutting through the wood. Leason well learned. During that summer/fall I really started paying attention to my uncle Tom's daily regimen of vitamins and supplements because my Uncle Tom was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer which unfortunately is how his brother Dan Kay had passed away. But my uncle Tom was very successful in his natural living health food remedies and took it upon himself to beat the Cancer without any help from PHARMA or a physician no chemotherapy or anything like that nope. So I payed very close attention to what he was taking and asked him questions why? What did it do for him well long story short everything he was taking was either cleansing his blood giving him energy,oxidizing his blood or cleansing his liver well my Uncle Tom definitely knew what he was talking about because he sent his cancer into remission and had basically stunned the doctors. Let's just say I have personally adopted a bunch of his daily regimen for my own today and feel better physically than I have in a long time with the exception of some spinal issues that I deal with but he has taught me to keep pushing the envelope and that we hold the key to change our future but it's on us to implement that change and on us to keep persevering and pushing through. My Uncle Tom was also very

passionate about helping out those with disabilities and taught me to stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves and to never make fun of someone who can't help that they were born different or even someone who has had an accident that left them with a disability either way they can't help it and it's not their fault so why would you want to make someone feel worse than they already do at the expense of others. It's not funny. Uncle Tom also always made room for others like letting me and my sister join in on some of there boyscout outings even though we weren't in there pack which always made me feel special. So many times over the years I have screwed up in so many ways and everytime I could always count on Uncle Tom and Aunt Linda to be there for me whether it be for their guidance or support they were there and always very honest and truthful. There's no way I could ever begin to repay them for everything they have done for me over the years all of the sacrifices they made to make sure that I knew I was loved and deeply cared for. The only thing now for me to do is to pass down that type of love and compassion and to give good advice and guidance to all of my nieces and nephews and of course my own kids and just try to set the best example and be the best role model I can to our future generation. This world definitely needs more love and compassion and more people like my uncle Tom. Who by the way is definitely one of the smartest guys I have ever met in my life I only can wonder about how many books that man has read over his lifetime a million maybe? That was my uncle Tom always reading about history and philosophy and constantly learning about others religions and belief systems without prejudice because he truly believed that love and compassion is the true light that can lure those out of the dark. It's easy for me to realize that I wouldn't be who I am today without ever having My Uncle Tom in my life or my Aunt Linda and for that I am a very lucky person

Paul Baird - July 13, 2025 at 11:22 AM

MG

“ My sisters and I were a part of the Kipling Kids that Kay Noble wrote about in her tribute, and we participated in all of the activities and games she mentioned. In addition, for the five of us sisters, growing up across the street from Tom, he was the brother we never had. His mother, Doris Kay, always welcomed us into their home - hosting those Kipling Kids Variety Shows, block rosaries, and even a special lunchtime when we all gathered around their TV to watch John F. Kennedy get inaugurated president of the United States. I also joined Tom and a group of friends in helping out in the migrant community, and handing out flyers outside Krogers during Cesar Chavez' Farm Workers strike. My awareness of social justice issues began with Tom Kay's family. So it's not surprising that Tom's future led him to a lifetime of service, care and concern. He truly was a kind, gentle and joyful spirit. A life well-lived, indeed.

Marcia Golata - July 11, 2025 at 07:39 PM

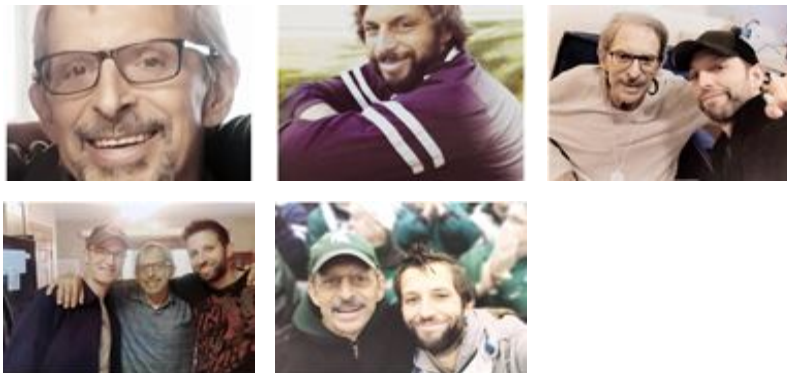
EW

What a wonderful memory, Tom absorbed his family's love and shared it throughout his life, reflecting and shining a light in the darkness as he was called upon to do.

Elizabeth Phillips Ward - July 11, 2025 at 09:16 PM



“ 46 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 10, 2025 at 06:37 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Patrick Kay.*



July 10, 2025 at 01:46 PM



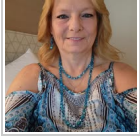
“ *I was one of the 'Kipling kids" of Tom's happy childhood. We rode bikes, roller skated on the sidewalks, played ball in Tom's backyard, put on Kipling Kids Variety shows in his basement, played neighborhood wide games of "Scatter" until after dark, and had caroling parties at Christmas. I'm not suprised he stayed kind throughout his life. I haven't seen him in a few years, but I recognize his smile. Kay Noble*

Kay Noble - July 08, 2025 at 06:47 PM



“ *So many good memories of all the Kay family! Tom and Linda were the best neighbors and friends for so many years. It was great our kids could grow up together in school, scouts, band and more. Tom was always patient and kind, just the best sort of guy to care for those with special needs as he did for so many years. Family meant everything to the Kay family. My heart goes out to the family left without this dear man, but the memories live on. Gods' blessings on you all. Kathy VanSlike*

kathy VanSlike - July 06, 2025 at 03:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Judy France - July 02, 2025 at 02:21 PM