



Wayne Thomas Gray

August 17, 1929 - December 12, 2025

Wayne Thomas Gray, affectionately known as “Tom,” was born in Detroit, Michigan. During his time at Cooley High School, Tom met Margot, the love of his life, on a blind date arranged by classmates. After Margot graduated a year after Tom, in 1951, they were married, beginning a partnership that would last for decades.

Tom and Margot celebrated 69 years of marriage in June 2020, a milestone marked by devotion and partnership, before Margot’s passing in December of the same year.

Following high school, Tom attended Michigan State University and earned his first degree in Agricultural Engineering. He continued his studies at Lawrence Technical University, where he received a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and later completed an MBA at the University of Detroit.

Two months after marrying Margot, Tom was drafted and sent to Fort Knox. There, he completed basic training as well as the 3rd Armored Division wheeled vehicle maintenance school. He was later assigned to the Army Chemical Center in Maryland, where he contributed to the design of chemical corps weapons and equipment.

After his military service, Tom began a 30-year career with the Big Three

automotive companies. He and Margot raised their family in Birmingham, Michigan, becoming active members of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. In 1984, they moved to Canadian Lakes, where Tom worked for ten years at Ferris State University as the appointed academic head of the School of Industrial Technology. He eventually retired as the corporate development director.

Tom and Margot enjoyed twenty years in Canadian Lakes, Mecosta County, Michigan, where Tom pursued his interests in deer hunting, fishing, and woodworking. He was a pioneer and active member of Chapel of the Lakes Lutheran Church, serving as an usher, supporting Margot with Vacation Bible School, and participating on the Finance Committee.

During this time, Tom established an 80-acre tree farm in Mecosta County. He was appointed Associate Director of the Mecosta County Soil and Water Conservation District and elected President of the Canadian Lakes Association.

In 2005, Tom and Margot moved from Canadian Lakes to Fox Run in Novi. Tom enjoyed playing table tennis, pool, Sequence, and was a dedicated volunteer at Tollgate Farm.

Tom is survived by his children—Cynthia Facchinei of Cary, NC (John), Wayne of Belleville, and Denise of Bloomfield Hills—along with eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Tom will be remembered for his strong faith, work ethic, leadership, and commitment to community service throughout his life. He met every challenge with determination and integrity, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues, friends, and family. His dedication continues to inspire those who knew him.

A Celebration of Life service is scheduled to take place at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, located at 1800 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009, on January 23rd at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial donations can be made to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – Your Community Church (<https://www.lcr.church/>) and Tollgate Farm and Education Center (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/>).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lutheran Church of The Redeemer
1800 W Maple Rd
Birmingham, MI 48009
<https://www.lcr.church/>