



Thomas A. DePew

MAR 31, 1953 - JAN 12, 2019



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Big Rapids - Thomas A. DePew, 65, of Big Rapids, went to be with his Lord on Saturday, January 12, 2018.

He was born March 31, 1953 in Big Rapids, the son of Lawrence and Margaret (Kailing) DePew, and attended St. Mary Catholic School. In 1972, Tom graduated from Big Rapids High School

For over 30 years, Tom worked as a custodian for Big Rapids Public Schools, retiring in 2010. He impacted the lives of many students and staff with his gentle way and words of encouragement. After retiring, Tom worked part time for the city of Big Rapids, and also Jim Bouman Well Service.

Tom was a lifetime member and supporter of St. Mary Catholic Church and School. He loved harness racing, both as a trainer and a driver. Most of all, Tom loved to stay in touch with family and friends, and doting on his grandchildren.

On October 20, 1973, Tom married Bonnie Mehl, who preceded him in death in 2011. Surviving are their 3 children, Lisa (Larry) Schuberg of Hersey, Jeff (Alisa) of Livingston, MT, David (Ana) of Grayling; 8 grandchildren, Caiden and Cooper Schuberg, Tyler, Coltyn, Karter, Kendall, Madilyn, and Landyn DePew; 2 brothers, Mike (Sally) DePew, and Father Daniel DePew of Big Rapids; 3 sisters-in-law, Cheryl and Joann DePew, and Norma (Con) Racey-Oren; a brother-in-law John Mehl; many nieces and nephews, and his Currie and Kailing cousins. He was also preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws Otto and Dorothy Mehl, and his brothers Ron and Karl DePew.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, January 17, 2019, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Big Rapids, with his brother, Father Dan DePew as celebrant. Burial will be in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Tom's family will greet friends at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday, January 16, from 6-8 p.m., with the Rosary Service beginning at 7:30 p.m., and after 10 a.m. on Thursday until time of



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services. Memorial contributions in Tom's name may be made to St. Mary Catholic School.

Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids.



Tribute Wall

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BW

Bill & Donna Winn posted:

We are so sorry to learn of your loss. May you be comforted by the thought that, in a sense, our fond memories of those we have lost in death keeps them alive. They are also alive in Gods memory. The Bible tells us that one day those in Gods memory will b

January 20 at 8:00 PM

BF

Buzz Fortino posted:

TOM RIP ANOTHER GREAT GUY LOST . I AM SURE GLAD I HAD THE PLEASURE TO MEET YOU IN MY LIFE. I REMEMBER THE DAYS AT ST. MARYS WITH YOU AND THE TIMES YOU USED TO FIX MY WELL WITH JIM BOWMAN IT WAS ENTERTAINING TO SAY THE LEAST. THE DOORS OF HEAVEN OUR OPEN FO

January 15 at 8:00 PM

SW

Steve Waddell lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

YOUR room IS ready, SIR! Bonnie and your family ARE waiting!!!

January 14 at 8:00 PM



NB

Nancy Burmeister posted:

I am saddened by the death of such a dear kind man as Tom DePew. To those of you who knew and loved Tom, please know that he changed many lives of young men who may well have been headed in wrong directions. As a teacher at Big Rapids Middle School, I

January 14 at 8:00 PM

BO

Bonnie Olendorf posted:

Our family are all so sorry to hear of your father's passing. It seems he has gone to be with Bill and Loren... They will all be missed....

January 14 at 8:00 PM



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GL

Gerald Langworthy posted:

Mr. DePew was always friendly to all the students. In the early 80's when I was there, he would pay my cousin and I \$5.00 for a five gallon pail of walnuts! That was great money back then!

January 14 at 8:00 PM

GB

Gregg Bunker posted:

my condolences go out to the Depew family sorry for your loss.

January 13 at 8:00 PM

TM

Terri Mehl posted:

So sorry to hear of his sudden passing. We always wanted him to visit California but knew it would never happen because he REFUSED to ever fly! He made me chuckle with his strong personality and sarcasm! I am sure there will be many memories to share a

January 13 at 8:00 PM

BC

Barbara Robbins -Caddo lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

Condolences to the family. A true friend that will truly be missed but remembered in our hearts.

January 13 at 8:00 PM



LP

Larry Pion lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

My Condolences to the Depew Family so sorry for your loss

January 13 at 8:00 PM



NO

Norma And Con Racey-Oren posted:

Dear family. My heart breaks that we are not able to come to Big Rapids this week to share in your sadness. Tom will live forever in our memories. He left his footprints of kindness and love, courage and compassion, humor and inspiration, joy and faith

January 13 at 8:00 PM



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January 13 at 8:00 PM

JM

John Mehl posted:

So sorry. When we heard the news of Tom passing. God Bless you all

January 12 at 8:00 PM

SV

Scott Vessey posted:

It saddens me to find out my old friend Tom has passed away. I never have forgot the good and bad times we had. I worked with Tom for many years and his horse Clever Alex during his harness racing days. Amazing how a friend from many years ago can bri

January 12 at 8:00 PM

KM

Kate Diffenderfer (Mehl) lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

Tom was my Uncle, I am Dorothy and Otto's grand daughter. We grew up in CA but would make it out to MI once every year or so. We always got a chance to visit with Tom and the Depew family when we came out . I always remember Tom had a way about him with c

January 12 at 8:00 PM



GO

Gordon lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

So sorry for the passing of Tom. He was a very good childhood friend. He lived just down the road from me. Even though I only saw him on Facebook he will be missed.

January 12 at 8:00 PM





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CD

Colleen Davis lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

Tom impacted the lives of so many working at the school. I know that both Jimmer and Joe have fond memories of helping him during school.

January 12 at 8:00 PM



JD

Jeff, Alisa, Tyler, Coltyn, And Karter Depew posted:

We love you Dad

January 12 at 8:00 PM

RS

Renee Rehkopf Sellers posted:

Thoughts and prayers for the family I am so very sorry for your loss all to soon.

January 12 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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