



Thomas Robert O'Neil

JUN 19, 1944 - MAR 5, 2026



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Thomas Robert O'Neil

JUN 19, 1944 - MAR 5, 2026

Thomas Robert O'Neil, 81, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at his home.

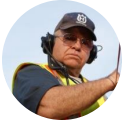
He was born June 19, 1944, at home in Morley, Michigan, the son of John and Mary (Buchanan) O'Neil. He graduated from Morley-Stanwood High School in 1962. On July 23, 1966, he married Katherine Moore, and together they made their home in the Stanwood area, where they built a life and raised their family.

Tom worked as a heavy equipment operator for Mecosta County for 16 years, and also drove semi-trucks. He was a dedicated public servant and community member, volunteering as a firefighter with the Mecosta Township Fire Department for 50 years. Tom was also served in the National Guard and was a member of the Mecosta County Sheriff's Posse, a Mecosta Township trustee, and was currently serving as a Mecosta County Commissioner.

He enjoyed working on his farm, raising cattle, and planting crops. Tom also loved hunting and bowling, a pastime he enjoyed for more than 60 years, often sharing the experience with his grandchildren. He was known for being stubborn and deeply committed—if he said he was going to do something, he did it. He was loyal, hardworking, and always willing to lend a hand to others, though he rarely asked for help himself.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of nearly 60 years, Katherine; his children, Robert (Patti) O'Neil, David (Barb) O'Neil, Shari O'Neil, and Diana (Steve) Cook; his grandchildren, Megan, Justin, Abby (Travis), Johnny, Jake, Emily, Jordan, and Katie; and one great-grandchild on the way. He is also survived by his brother, Ken (Martie) O'Neil; his sisters, Linda Vredenburg and Bonnie Thebo; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Gary O'Neil.



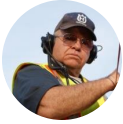
Obituary

Thomas Robert O'Neil

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Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at Mohnke Janowicz Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Friends may greet the family on Tuesday, March 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home and again beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday prior to the service. Thomas will be laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery in Stanwood.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Mecosta Township Fire Department or the Green Country Church in Morley, MI.



Events


Thomas Robert O'Neil

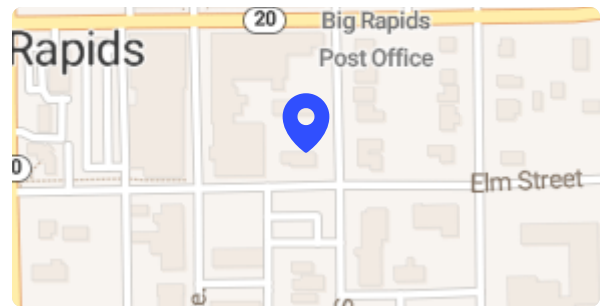
JUN 19, 1944 - MAR 5, 2026

Visitation

 **Tuesday**, March 10, 2026


 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET


 **Mohnke Janowicz Funeral Home**
128 S. Warren Ave., Big Rapids MI 49307

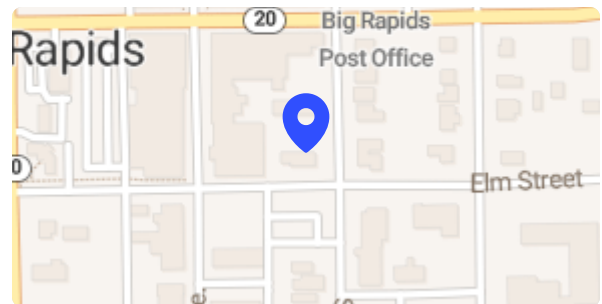


Visitation

 **Wednesday**, March 11, 2026


 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **Mohnke Janowicz Funeral Home**
128 S. Warren Ave., Big Rapids MI 49307

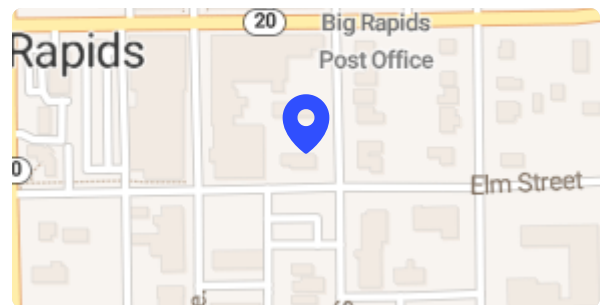


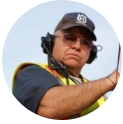
Funeral Service

 **Wednesday**, March 11, 2026

 11:00 AM ET

 **Mohnke Janowicz Funeral Home**
128 S. Warren Ave., Big Rapids MI 49307





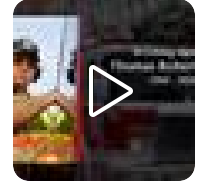
Tribute Wall

Thomas Robert O'Neil

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Janowicz Family Funeral Home shared a **Video**.



March 11 at 1:21 PM



Sonia Martin posted:

Thinking of you Diana, All the Cook's, and family ❤️ I will miss seeing your parents together at weekly bowling nights. Seeing them walk in together always brought me joy and put a smile on my face! The times I would see them sitting together watching you and your sister bowl. I would always greet them ❤️ When walking by them asking how you were bowling? Standing with them to cheer when you had a great game. Short conversations together about our boys and their High School bowling meets, always praising the boys and looking forward to the next meet! Sharing updates on how the boy's are doing. Your father Tom will be missed RIP 🙏 The Smalley Family sends many blessings to you, mother Katherine and family ❤️

March 10 at 12:12 PM



From Austin, Michelle, Molly And Corey sent a Country Basket Blooms to the O'Neil family.



March 9 at 1:17 PM



From Austin, Michelle, Molly And Corey planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thomas.



March 9 at 1:17 PM



Annette Coles posted:

I don't have just one fond memory of Tom, I have several. The best thing about him was his laugh and stories he told to those he knew. Tom was not afraid to tell the truth and let you know what he was thinking in a manner that did not hurt but gave advice at the same time. Tom would listen to anything you had to say. He would help when needed without questions. He will be missed dearly. My thoughts and prayer to Katherine and the family for the loss of Tom. We will hold him in our hearts. God has truly gained a wonderful soul in heaven. Blessings, Annette & Harry Coles

March 9 at 11:44 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the O'Neil family.



March 8 at 6:26 PM



Jill Buse posted:

I can't tell about just one moment with Tom. But all the fun times we had at the firehall: whether it was eating homemade ice cream Tom brought up or out practicing with the hoses. He was a fun-loving man who had so much knowledge to share! I learned from him, laughed with him, trusted him, and loved him. He will be greatly missed!

March 8 at 6:07 PM



Media

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Janowicz Family Funeral Home shared a Video.

March 11 at 1:21 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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