



Thomas Frederick Gruse

December 13, 1942 - January 13, 2024

Thomas Frederick Gruse, 81, passed away January 13, 2024. Tom was born on December 13, 1942 to Frederick and Beverly (Glass) Gruse. Sixty-one years ago, on January 7, 1963, Tom married the love of his life, Dianne Margaret Grockau. Together they raised four children, Christopher (Abby), David, Alan (Gina) and Machelie (Lonnie). Tom was born and raised in Detroit. He graduated from Denby High School, was employed by Rinke Pontiac, Gage Oldsmobile and drove cement trucks as a Local Union 247 member. Tom and Dianne spent summer vacations at the Grockau family cabin on Manistee Lake. They then built a home on the canal and moved their family to Kalkaska in 1978. After moving north to Kalkaska, Tom was employed at Voice Motor Sales until starting his own business, Manistee Lake Garage, in 1981 retiring in 2010. Tom joined the Coldsprings Excelsior Township Fire Department in 1979, serving his community as fire fighter, Assistant Chief, and retired as Chief in 2005. From 1991 to 2014, Tom was a safety crew member operating a wrecker for Miller Industries at Indy and Nascar races at Michigan International Speedway and various tracks. Tom was nominated by Garfield Township Police Chief, Jerry Cannon, for the American Towman order of Towman award. Tom was recognized and honored for his dedication to the towing industry and exceptional service to his community at the annual Towman Convention in 2010. Tom enjoyed his free time, camping and waxing the motorhome, Nascar, Wii bowling, spaghetti Sundays and spending time with his family, especially his grandkids and the "Pooch" Thea. Tom is survived

by his wife, Dianne, children and grandchildren, Brett, Blake (Kendra), Robert, Landon, Mallory, Miranda, Alexis (aka Queenie), Alyson and Alivia, great-grand son's Hayden and Oakland and many cousins. Tom is preceded in death by his parents, Frederick and Beverly, brothers Alan Robert and Raymond Charles, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Arthur and Margaret Grockau.

A funeral service will be held at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Sunday, January 21st, 2024, at 1:00 PM with Pastor Richard Van Beek officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 11:00 AM until the time of service with luncheon immediately following at the CETA hall on Co. Rd 612. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to CETA.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Family & Friends Gathering

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Service

JAN 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Greg and I were fortunate to have met Tom at the Nascar races. Him, Diane and family quickly became family to us. We loved spending time with them and always shared a Canadian peameal bacon breakfast. We had the honor of bringing them to Canada and visited Niagara Falls for a short visit on our way to a race. We'll cherish all our memories and the wonderful times we shared with him. R.I.P dear friend.
Greg and Patty

Patty Morton - January 21, 2024 at 07:45 PM

JS

“ Tom and Dianne were my next door neighbors 35 years ago I moved away and two years ago moved back to Kaskaskia to live with my son so sorry for your loss Dianne

Jan Schenden - January 21, 2024 at 04:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas Frederick Gruse.



January 19, 2024 at 05:44 PM

TT

“ The At&t Louisville Construction Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Frederick Gruse.

The At&t Louisville Construction Team - January 19, 2024 at 05:44 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Frederick Gruse.*



January 19, 2024 at 03:16 PM



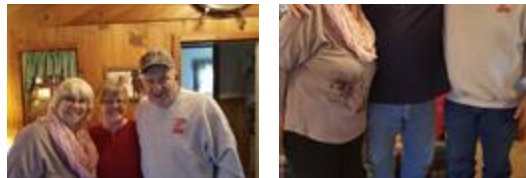
“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Frederick Gruse.*



January 18, 2024 at 06:04 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Cousins Jim & Sandee - January 18, 2024 at 11:13 AM



“ *Robert F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Frederick Gruse.*

Robert F. - January 18, 2024 at 09:00 AM

LG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Gruse - January 17, 2024 at 11:44 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Frederick Gruse.



January 17, 2024 at 11:28 AM

FT

“ From you GFL Specialized Safety Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Frederick Gruse.

From you GFL Specialized Safety Team - January 17, 2024 at 11:28 AM

KD

“ Keith D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Frederick Gruse.

Keith D. - January 17, 2024 at 10:05 AM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Thomas Frederick Gruse.*



January 17, 2024 at 08:21 AM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Cousin Bob - January 16, 2024 at 07:19 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Thomas Frederick Gruse.*



January 16, 2024 at 06:15 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Linda Gruse Goff - January 16, 2024 at 05:17 AM

LG

My Brother made a handsome picturegoing to the school prom in 1963

Linda Gruse - January 16, 2024 at 07:39 PM

IS

He was such a cool man. The cigarette is perfect. ❤️😊

Isaac - January 16, 2024 at 09:09 PM

RW

“*Sorry to hear about Tom, my condolences to the family, I have lived next-door to Tom and Diane for many years and I always enjoyed going over helping Tom when possible clean up his leaves and acorns, truly a great man he will definitely be missed*

Richard Wood - January 15, 2024 at 08:35 PM

DS

“*Absolutely loved Tom. Such a great guy. My deepest condolences and prayers for peace and comfort.*



Debbie Snyder - January 15, 2024 at 07:59 PM