



Howard Thomas Yelton

April 7, 1934 - December 7, 2022

Howard Thomas Yelton, “Tom” age 88, a lifelong Minocqua resident passed away Wednesday, December 7, 2022. He was born on April 7, 1934 in Tomahawk, WI to Wilmer and Velma Yelton. Tom met the love of his life, Janet Zoe Birkholz while both were still in high school. Tom graduated from Minocqua High School and then went to MSOE. They were married July 31, 1954, in Minocqua and spent 56 years together. Tom joined his brothers in the construction business and built many homes in the Northwoods area. He wore many hats as a business owner and town official. He started HT Glass and Mirror in 1973 with side ventures such as a bike shop, a fitness center and laundromat. Tom had a quick wit and truly enjoyed coffee with the guys even though he was outnumbered by the Republicans which resulted in some lively debates.

Tom was a town supervisor for many years and did his best to promote and build Minocqua into a vibrant community. He was a member of the Minocqua Lions Club and Jaycee’s. He was an avid hunter and golfer. He also enjoyed fishing on his boat in Florida. Tom spent his coffee hour in Florida at the “Table of Knowledge” solving many of the world problems before 8:00am. He and Jan were blessed to spend 30 winters in Florida surrounded by a great number of close friends from across the U.S.

Tom and Jan’s retirement years revolved around their kids and grandchildren.

Every opportunity to see a concert, sporting event, play or other school/church event was never missed. Sunny summer and fall days were spent at their home in Minocqua on the lake and no one missed Christmas at Grandpa and Grandma's. Tom was quick to provide advice to all his grandkids whether they asked for it or not and shared "questionable" life experiences that were always entertaining. Tom was always one to speak his mind regardless of who was within earshot and was usually right.

Tom was preceded in death by his brothers Willy and Dan and his wife, Janet. He is survived by his children, Kim (Bob) Christensen of Wausau, Hal (Gail) Yelton of Minocqua, Jackie (Paul) Duerst of Manitowish Waters, Chris (Robert) Garcia of Hazelhurst, grandchildren Brent, Megan, Luke, Jake, Laurel, Stephen, Drew, Lauren, Logan, Nick, Nikolai, Hanna, Jack and Georgia and 13 great grandchildren and his blond four-legged companion, Kate. Tom greatly appreciated his many neighbors and friends in Wisconsin and Florida.

Visitation will be from 9:00-11:00am with a service at 11:00 on Friday, December 16th at Ascension Lutheran Church in Minocqua. Lunch will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, all monetary gifts will be distributed to local charities including Lakeland Swim Club Scholarship Fund.

Cemetery Details

Columbarium Gardens at Ascension Lutheran Church

Minocqua, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 16. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ascension Lutheran Church
7937 Hwy 51 S
Minocqua, WI

Memorial Service

DEC 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ascension Lutheran Church
7937 Hwy 51 S
Minocqua, WI

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Howard Thomas Yelton.



December 16, 2022 at 04:19 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Howard Thomas Yelton.



December 16, 2022 at 10:24 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Howard Thomas Yelton.



December 16, 2022 at 09:08 AM



“ <https://youtu.be/Q8gVk0pY5WQ>

Gail S Yelton - December 16, 2022 at 08:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Howard Thomas Yelton.*



December 14, 2022 at 11:04 AM



“ *Hello Gail and Hal, We are saddened to learn of Tom's passing. His dedication, commitment and love of his family and his community of friends is inspiring to all. What a happy and joy filled man, husband, dad and grandpa. We will be thinking of you this week and on Friday as you pay tribute to a wonderful soul that will be missed by all. God grant him peace and companionship with his dear Jan, as he begins his next journey.*

*Our love to you all as you share all the memories of Tom in the coming weeks. We are praying for you both and for your families.
Joan & Rick Zahalka*

Joan and Rick Zahalka - December 13, 2022 at 09:05 AM



Thank you Joan and Rick.

Gail S Yelton - December 19, 2022 at 07:46 AM



“ *So long neighbor . Its going to be awhile before I quit watching for you and Sadie to walk by. I'm sure she is very confused by now.*

Tom Wipperfurth - December 12, 2022 at 01:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Howard Thomas Yelton.*



December 12, 2022 at 09:46 AM



“ *I love you Tom. Gonna miss those firm handshakes and all the stories started by him (confirmed by his daughters). Understandably frustrated by aphasia in his later years yet communicated so much. I feel like I've known him for years. Rest easy. You are missed* ❤️

Eileen Emond - December 09, 2022 at 11:20 PM



“ *We send our condolences and best wishes to all of the Yelton family. Just as Tom's obituary says, he had a great quick wit and was the ultimate family man. Tom may be gone from this earth but we know all of his children, grandchildren and friends will have wonderful lasting memories of him. Kirby and Anne Redman*

Kirby Redman - December 09, 2022 at 10:55 AM



“ *Always such a friendly face to cross paths with in the community. Your caring and genuine personality will forever be cherished. Tom, you will be dearly missed. You've got an amazing family to carry on your legacy. Hugs to you all. Love, The Redman Family*

Adam Redman - December 09, 2022 at 10:50 AM

TP

“ I loved how my dad always called Uncle Tom “Howard” and Uncle Tom always called my dad “Carl” (Dad’s middle name).

Uncle Tom wanted my brother Ty to be named Matthew. They named him Ty Matthew but Uncle Tom called him Matthew or Matt for a long time.

I remember when I was about 5, sitting on a little red chair outside watching Uncle Tom build the upstairs of our house.

I remember getting in trouble from him for reaching for something at the dinner table rather than asking for it to be passed.

I remember hanging out at the glass shop watching him work in the back while Mom and Aunt Jan visited and drank coffee in the front. I remember when his first Kate (Katy) got her tail caught in the front door of the glass shop.

I remember watching him shoot clay pigeons in back of the glass shop when it was just an empty field back there.

So many good memories of all of fun growing up, including trips to WV and St. Lewis to visit Kim and Bob and driving to FL together.

So many fun memories gatherings with friends and family at the Yelton home, including the famous pig roasts compliments of Hal and his buddies.

So thankful for a childhood that included Uncle Tom and Aunt Jan and the Yelton family. We have been blessed with a close-knit extended family.

tanya prevatt - December 09, 2022 at 07:56 AM



“ A great man and a long-time public servant for the town of Minocqua. He and my father served many years together on the town board and sponsored a softball team together. Thoughts are with the Yelton family at the loss of this great man.

Joe Handrick - December 09, 2022 at 01:04 AM