



Thomas J. Lewinski

February 27, 1946 - March 7, 2019

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The world lost a great fisherman and a sweet man on March 7, 2019, when Thomas Joseph Lewinski of Minocqua passed after a courageous bout with cancer. He was 73 years old.

Tom was born in Milwaukee, WI, on February 27, 1946, but spent his childhood growing up in Lola, where he went on to graduate from Lola-Scandinavia High School in 1964. After high school, Tom moved to Marshfield and began working for Badger Fixtures, Inc. as a cabinet maker. Many of the custom bars Tom built in those early days are still in existence in various taverns and supper clubs in northern Wisconsin today, a testimony to his craftsmanship. He spent his entire career as a cabinet maker and worked his final years for St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, a job he truly loved.

It was in Marshfield where he met the love of his life, Joycie, and the two married on May 11, 1968. They raised two sons- Chris, born in 1970, and Todd, born in 1972. Tom loved spending time with his wife and boys, and the family enjoyed many camping weekends and summer road trips as Chris and Todd got older.

Tom particularly enjoyed hunting and fishing with his son Chris. The two rarely missed a weekend during the bowhunting season and enjoyed countless hunts together. Some of Tom's favorite memories were of the "deer shack", an old horse barn foundation he and his brother Jim converted to a hunting camp in the late 1970's. Located north of Iola, the Shack was "home" to a large party of hunters every deer season, and Tom loved every minute of this time with his family and friends. Later, he, Chris and Tom Peterson purchased a hunting camp and 100 acres in northern Wisconsin. This deer camp, formally known as "R'treet", was Tom's labor of love, and he and Tom Peterson spent nearly every weekend for two years completely renovating and adding on to the original cabin. It was at R'treet, in 2001— 5 months after he suffered a heart attack— that Tom enjoyed his most successful hunting season, bagging a six point buck with his bow, and then an eight point buck with his rifle, one week later.

As much as he enjoyed deer hunting, it couldn't compare to his one true passion: fishing. From humble beginnings catching panfish as a young boy in Lake Iola, Tom went on to fish innumerable lakes in northern Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Tennessee, Florida, and Ontario, Canada. He also made three trips to Alaska, and caught his largest halibut, a 135 pounder, in Cook Inlet. But his favorite trip was always the annual fly-in fishing camp in northern Ontario with his buddies Tom Peterson, Larry Krainz, John Skaden, and Dick Cook. For Tom, nothing could beat the heft of a walleye on the end of his line, the song of the hermit thrush, and a brandy old-fashioned (sweet!) while watching a Canadian sunset with his friends.

When he wasn't fishing, Tom enjoyed traveling with Joycie, and the two explored many of America's National Parks, their favorites being Bryce and Zion. They also visited Hawaii, Mexico, Austria, Switzerland, Croatia, and their most memorable destination, the island of Saint Lucia. In later years, Tom also enjoyed their annual winter stay in Sedona, Arizona, where he liked to golf

and visit with other friends escaping the long Wisconsin winters.

The final dream come true for Tom was when he and Joycie purchased their home on Bullhead Lake in Minocqua in 2002. Retiring in 2011, he enjoyed eight years of solitude on their little lake, listening to the loons at night and enjoying an old-fashioned around the campfire with his friends and family.

When Tom learned of his terminal diagnosis in December 2018, he reflected on a life well lived and expressed gratitude for all he had done, seen and experienced. He loved, and was loved by, many and will be missed by all those whose lives he touched with his smile, laughs, and hugs.

Carrying on Tom's memory and name are his wife Joycie of Minocqua, son Chris and daughter-in-law Rachael of Sheboygan, and grandson Hunter of Clinton, NY.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Faith Evangelical Free Church, 9035 Blumenstein Road, Woodruff, with a gathering one hour prior to the service at the church.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAR 23. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Faith Evangelical Free Church
9035 Blumenstein Road
Woodruff, WI 54568

Memorial Service

MAR 23. 1:00 PM (CT)

Faith Evangelical Free Church
9035 Blumenstein Road
Woodruff, WI 54568

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Lewinski.



March 22, 2019 at 09:45 AM



“ *John And Sally Lewinski lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Lewinski*



john and sally lewinski - March 21, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Lewinski.



March 21, 2019 at 05:16 AM



“ *Tammy Kleinschmidt purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Thomas J. Lewinski.*



Tammy Kleinschmidt - March 20, 2019 at 01:17 PM

MC

“ Joyce, Chris & Family,
So sorry we will not be able to attend the services. Please know that Uncle Tom's infectious laugh and cheeky grin will forever be in our hearts. He could tell a story that had you reeled in until the end, and then knock you off your seat with the punch line. You are such a strong family with close ties. . .hold each other tight and always remember the good times and life you shared with Tom!
Jim, Lisa, Jackson & Truman

Melissa M Colby - March 20, 2019 at 10:58 AM

JT

“ Jim, Lisa, Jackson & Truman purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Thomas J. Lewinski.



Jim, Lisa, Jackson & Truman - March 20, 2019 at 10:49 AM

MK

“ Joyce, Chris and family.

Jane and I were saddened to read about Tom in the Marshfield News Herald last Friday. We thought of you every time we drove through Minocqua on a side trip to our cottage in Butternut. Tom and you were great neighbors in the 800 block of North Central. We are in Florida for the winter and cannot attend the service but know that you are in our thoughts at this sad time. We can still picture him with his great smile.

Jane and Mike Koenig

Michael Koenig - March 19, 2019 at 11:40 AM

PM

“ *Pat Melum lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Lewinski*



pat melum - March 18, 2019 at 09:02 AM

MM

“ *I will never forget Uncle Tom's playful sense of humor and passion for hunting and fishing. My sincere condolences to Joyce, Chris, family and friends for the loss of a genuinely good and sincere man. I'm sure there will be no shortage of touching and humorous stories as you look back on a life very well lived.*



Mike Maus - March 18, 2019 at 01:21 AM

JK

“ *Joyce and family,
I am so sorry to have heard about Tom's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all in the coming days, weeks, months, and years. Hold onto the beautiful memories that you shared with him...he will never be far away that way!*
Juanita Kummer

Juanita Kummer - March 15, 2019 at 05:39 PM

MA

“ *My sympathies to the family. I always enjoyed visiting with Tom when he would come into our office at St. Joseph's Hosp. A sweet spirit. May God give His comfort.*

Midge Anderson - March 15, 2019 at 04:31 PM

JG

“Joyce you are in my thoughts and prayers as you start this next Journey in your life. My Fondest Memories of Tom are when we both worked at Saint Joseph's Hospital. I knew every time I went down to the carpenter shop I would get my favorhe was always there to help me out. One of the sweetest and kindest man I've known. God's blessings to you and your family.

Joann Gougeon - March 15, 2019 at 12:47 PM

WE

“Winnie Huebsch and Cynthia van Ess purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas J. Lewinski.



Winnie Huebsch and Cynthia van Ess - March 14, 2019 at 12:44 PM

HL

“Joyce and family: My deepest sympathy on the loss of a wonderful husband and father. Cherish all the wonderful memories.

Hope Lotzer - March 14, 2019 at 09:54 AM

DW

“Dick Lange-Colby, Wisc. purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Thomas J. Lewinski.



Dick Lange-Colby, Wisc. - March 13, 2019 at 01:11 PM

DN

“ Donna Nyiri lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Lewinski



Donna Nyiri - March 12, 2019 at 04:39 PM

DN

“ I remember when Tom, Joyce Bob, and I were up in Hayward where Joyce and Bob did the American Berkeiner and as we were returning to our motel the neighbor in the motel room next to ours asked Tom how his son (Bob) did in the race. Tom's son Bob is four years older than Tom. We just laughed till our sides hurt. Bob still calls him dad. We will always remember those great times together.

*God Bless always,
Bob and Donna Nyiri*

Donna Nyiri - March 12, 2019 at 04:37 PM

PH

“ Peg Hardinger lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Lewinski



Peg Hardinger - March 10, 2019 at 04:42 PM

TK

“ Terry And Julie Kamke lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Lewinski



Terry and Julie Kamke - March 10, 2019 at 02:48 PM

MS

“ Lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Lewinski



Mary Wallen Sisk - March 09, 2019 at 09:23 PM

SK

“ Sarah Klotzbuecher lit a candle in memory of Thomas J. Lewinski



Sarah Klotzbuecher - March 08, 2019 at 01:25 PM

JM

*Joyce and family, we just can't express our sad feelings enough here with the loss of Tom. So very sorry and we will miss him tremendously both at the gym and church. He was such a sweet man, enjoyable to be around...and fun to tease!! Will always remember him with a smile!!!
Jack & Esther Moulton*

Jack Moulton - March 09, 2019 at 02:32 PM

DL

Worked with Tom for many years. Just a very very nice man. See you later my friend.

Dick Lange - March 13, 2019 at 01:02 PM

CD

Uncle Tom was more of an older brother to me growing up. Especially when he gave me a crash course on how to drive a stick shift car so I could get to work the very next day. All he could say when we got home was "good luck!"

Love you and miss you so much! Cheryl Dahlen

Cheryl Dahlen - March 13, 2019 at 10:59 PM

TW

*Joycie and family,
Sorry for your loss. Tom was an especially good and kind person, with a great sense of humor. I'll always remember netting Tom's largest bass ever on Bullhead Lake, on opening day last year. As usual, he was smiling and happy that day. We will miss him.*

Ted & Ruth Wrona

Ted Wrona - March 15, 2019 at 06:22 PM

CS

Joyce and family, so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Memories might be old but not forgotten. He was a wonderful person!

Bill and Carol Schallock

Carol Schallock - March 16, 2019 at 11:08 AM