



## Thomas H. Nilsson

November 3, 1943 - January 23, 2017

Thomas Harold Nilsson, age 73 of Minocqua, passed away on January 23, 2017 at his residence with his loving family by his side.

Born November 3, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois, Tom was the youngest son of Harold and Margaret (Smith) Nilsson. Upon graduating from Culver Stockton University, Tom went on to further his education at the University of Tennessee. Tom served in the United States Marine Corps and later had a successful career in education and coaching, retiring with the Department of Defense Dependent Overseas Education System in 2005.

Tom was very active in his local communities in particular the St Matthias Episcopal Church – Veterans Breakfast, Community Table, Frederick Place, Survivor’s Dinner, Usher, Lay Reader and the Northwoods Model Railroad club.

Tom loved spending time in the outdoors, coaching and watching his children and grandchildren grow into their adult lives. He particularly enjoyed spending time at the family cottage on Clear Lake during his summer breaks from teaching. He and his wife eventually built their retirement home in Minocqua to be closer to the family cottage.

He is survived by his wife Betty J. (Raysa), two daughters, Elizabeth (Nilsson) Waters and spouse Clifford of Vancleave, MS and Helen Nilsson and spouse Jenny Wendell of Pataskala, OH. Tom’s two grandchildren: Kristen (Waters) Wheelock and spouse Ryan of Biloxi, MS and Gordon Waters and finance Christina Hamil of Biloxi, MS. Tom’s brother Jerry Nilsson and spouse Carol of

Cadillac, MI, one niece Carrie Nilsson Boykin and one nephew Eric Nilsson and numerous family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family would like to thank Ministry Home Care/Hospice for the support and care that was provided to Tom.

Funeral services will be held at St Matthias Episcopal Church in Minocqua, WI on January 28, 2017 at 1 p.m. with visitation from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St. Matthias Episcopal Church-Community Table/Veteran's Breakfast(715-356-6758), Ministry Home Care/Hospice(Randi Danner at 800-234-3542, NATH/Frederick Place in Rhinelander, WI(<http://www.nathnorthwoods.com>) or the Northwoods Model Railroad Club([skiptosch@hotmail.com](mailto:skiptosch@hotmail.com)) in Tom's memory.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 28. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Matthias Episcopal Church  
403 E. Chicago Avenue  
Minocqua, WI 54548

## Funeral Service

JAN 28. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Matthias Episcopal Church  
403 E. Chicago Avenue  
Minocqua, WI 54548

# Tribute Wall

KG

“ Hi Betty - Kerm and Marcia Getz here. We are so sorry to hear about Tom. So many years have passed and we dearly want to reconnect with you. Please call me at 214-608-5824, kermgetz@gmail.com. Marcia does Facebook - Find her at Marcia Getz in Frisco Texas. So sad that Tom is not with us. May he Rest In Peace with our Lord.

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**Kerm Getz** - March 01, 2018 at 10:45 AM

HL

“ Betty and family, we are sorry to hear about your sad loss. Please, accept our sincere condolences. We will always remember these pumpkin carving parties. Tom was our kindest neighbor ever.

*Harald, Hildegard and Andrea (Neighbors in Belgium from 1996 on)*

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**Harald Lauterbach** - February 01, 2017 at 01:10 PM

JC

“ Betty, It was with great sadness that we just learned about Tom. I miss words to express how sad we are at the announcement of the death that affects you cruelly. In these difficult times we would like to express our sincere condolences and share your pain. Our deepest thoughts, prayers and condolences are with you. We love you and pray for you. Christine, Stéphanie, Daniel, Nicole and Mum; (Your Belgian Neighbors)

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**JANSSENS CHRISTINE** - January 31, 2017 at 03:05 PM

JP

“ *It will be the little things that you will remember, the quiet moments, the smiles, the laughter. Although it is hard right now, it will be the memories of these little things that help to push away the pain and bring the smiles back again. Sending our deepest sympathy, Jackie & Gene Pope, Biloxi MS*

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**Jackie & Gene Pope** - January 30, 2017 at 07:00 PM

CM

“ *Liz, HJ, and Mama. Rick and I will be thinking and praying for you all during the next couple of months. We love you. So, so very sorry. Love, Chris & Rick McGill*

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**Christine G McGill** - January 29, 2017 at 05:52 PM

MB

“ *Great coach and friend will miss him dearly*

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**Mike Bryant** - January 29, 2017 at 08:48 AM

DP

“ *Tom was a joy to know and work with. I enjoyed listening to his many stories and his friendship. Betty and family, you are all my thoughts and prayers. Deb Pennell-Wilcox*

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**Deb PW** - January 29, 2017 at 07:54 AM

AR

“ Tom was the "best of the best"! A true gentleman, loving husband, loving father and grandfather. I met Tom and Betty when I moved to SHAPE, Belgium in 2003. I dearly loved these two people and wish more people would follow the model they demonstrated in real life. Betty, may God bless and keep you throughout the rest of your life until you again can be with your wonderful mate, Tom. Love Arlena

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**Arlena Ray** - January 29, 2017 at 02:41 AM

BQ

“ I remember two different Wales trips with them. One involved picking up their brand new puppy, Uki, and bringing her back with us to Belgium. And then seeking the pup roam back and forth between their two classrooms. The other was me rappelling down a crazy slope and Mr. Nilsson was standing under me. A bit sheet rock came off the wall and flew down and barely hit him in the head! He dodged out of the way and laughed about it afterward but it freaked me out obviously!

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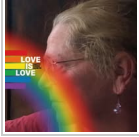
**Bridget Quinn** - January 28, 2017 at 11:26 AM

GW

“ Our thoughts, prayers and heartfelt sympathy go to Betty and her family. Tom always had open arms to anyone in need, shared his wealth of knowledge and interesting stories to whomever he met,. He had such a positive attitude and warm welcoming smile that will be remembered forever and be missed by many. May all of you live on in those great memories.

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**George and Cathy Spaeth,Lake Tomahawk, w** - January 27, 2017 at 09:35 PM



“ Tom enriched the lives of students, teachers, and families at SHAPE in Belgium. His loving heart, ready laughter, and dedication to young people touched us all. My thoughts are with Betty, their family, and his many friends around the world.

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**Christine Cole** - January 27, 2017 at 07:32 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas H. Nilsson.



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January 26, 2017 at 01:27 PM



“ Sue Mayer purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Thomas H. Nilsson.



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**Sue Mayer** - January 26, 2017 at 12:22 PM



“ Joni, Marie, Donna & Pat purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas H. Nilsson.



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**Joni, Marie, Donna & Pat** - January 26, 2017 at 10:23 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss. It is so hard to let go of our loved ones. But he is in great hands now and no more suffering. Love and prayers for you all.  
*Vickey and Wayne Waters*

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**vickey waters** - January 26, 2017 at 05:56 AM



“ We will always remember our friendly neighbor who would walk his dog in the summers around Timber Ridge. May God Bless and hold you doing this time. *The Karling Family*

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**Mary Karling** - January 25, 2017 at 10:05 PM



“ On behalf of the Northwoods Model Railroad Club, I would like to offer our condolences to the family. Tom was one of the Founding Members of our Club and was always willing to help with Club events. We really enjoyed the many fun and interesting discussions. We were very impressed with the way Tom dealt with his lengthy illness, maintaining a positive attitude throughout. He was obviously a family oriented man.  
*Tom, you will be missed.*  
*Rich Kurszewski*

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**Richard Kurszewski** - January 25, 2017 at 09:57 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Thomas H. Nilsson.*



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 January 25, 2017 at 08:54 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Thomas H. Nilsson.*



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January 25, 2017 at 04:58 PM



“ *We are so deeply saddened to have lost our dear friend, Tom. Have you ever known such a BIG Teddy Bear? We have not - Tom was SO kind, SO giving, and SO caring. We have known Tom, Betty, HJ, and Liz since Tom and Betty arrived as DoDDS teachers in Korea. We renewed our friendship when they came (with DoDDS) to Germany and again, when Tom, Betty, Pete, and I retired to Wisconsin. When we get together, we talk for hours and have shared happy and sad times over the years. We will miss Tom greatly and we pray that Betty, the girls, and the rest of the family stay strong and rejoice in all of the good things Tom did for others. It was an honor to know him. We have memories of his teaching, his coaching, his interest in trains, his enthusiasm for sports, his wanting me to donate an animal to his Science classes (long story!), his love of travel, his pride in their beautiful homes in Wisconsin, his love of God and their church, His ability to fix anything, his ability to tell a GREAT story, his caring about OUR children, and his cherishing of the girls and Betty. May God bless Tom for all that he did on this earth and being the caring husband, father, teacher, and friend that he was to many, As I said before in this message, it was an honor to know Tom. Lovingly, Jan and Pete Price*

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**Jan and Pete Price** - January 24, 2017 at 05:27 PM