



Thomas F Higgins

October 5, 1932 - July 7, 2015

Thomas F. Higgins, age 82 of Merrillville, passed away Tuesday, July 7, 2015. Tom was born in Gary and graduated from Holy Angels '46, Horace Mann '50 and Indiana University '55 with a BA degree in Radio Journalism and with an Army commission as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He served with the First Infantry Division followed by 32 years of active and reserve service retiring as a Colonel. Tom was President of the Delta Chi fraternity, active in a number of campus organizations including the Dailey Student newspaper, news editor of WFIU radio and IU Alumni Association Life member. His broadcast career began at WLOI in La Porte prior to entering the military, and later continued at WWCA in Gary. He eventually worked at several other stations including television. He also served as Director of Alumni Relations at IU Northwest for 14 years. Tom was a member of committees and boards including President of the Senior Little League World Series, Gary Old Timer's Association, Blessed Sacrament Home and School Association and Parish Council. He served as a board member on the CYO and Catholic Family Services. The family has belonged to the Hammond Marina since it opened in 1991 and sailed Lake Michigan every summer. Tom authored 5 books and his many civic accolades include President of Gary Easter Seals campaign, Toastmaster Award, Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 2003, from Governor Frank O'Bannon, and The Friendly Sons of Erin, 1987 Shamrock Award Recipient. Tom was preceded in death by daughter Kathy (Mark) Townsend of Crown Point and parents, Hayden and Olga (Chasten) Higgins. He is survived

by his wife Elizabeth (Kopil-Dynakowski) Higgins; daughters-Judy (Mike) Maretich of Johnsburn, IL, Nancy of Lowell, Tracy (late Tim) Bonick of Merrillville, Stacy (Bob) Gleason of Lowell; sons-Tom (Carrie) of Valparaiso, Tim (Cathy) of Crown Point, Patrick of Schererville; brother-Michael (Marie) Higgins of Crown Point. Eleven grandchildren-Amy (Casey) Lane, Mikey Maretich, Katie (Anthony) Quintana, Tom Higgins, Hayden Higgins, Tim Higgins, Amber Higgins, Morgan Bonick, Colin Gleason, Erin Gleason and Tatum Gleason; three great grandchildren-Abby Lane, Cody Lane and Vincent Quintana; best friends-Karen Wilson of Schererville, and Brad McClellan of Lowell.

Tom's greatest reward was June 13, 1960, when he married Betty and they began a family of eight children based on faith, love, respect, and humor. She made it a great life and family and was the best caregiver during their 55 years together. Friends are invited to visit with Tom's family on Friday, July 10th from 3-8pm at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, with a prayer service at 5:30 pm. Funeral service Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 10 am - DIRECTLY at St. Andrew Church, 801 W. 73rd Ave., Merrillville, IN with Rev. Mick Kopil and Rev. Robert Gehring concelebrating. Interment at Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville, IN. www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, IN 46410

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Andrews the Apostle Church
801 West 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, IN 46410

Tribute Wall

LO

“ I will always remember how gracious he was upon meeting him for the first time on his beloved sailboat in letting us share such a beautiful day on the water with him!! So sorry for your loss Stacy and family..Laura and John Ogren

Laura Ogren - July 11, 2015 at 08:04 PM

GR

“ Mr. Tom Higgins was great man to know , he will be missed.

Gary Richardson - July 10, 2015 at 04:35 PM

TL

“ Though I did not know Tom personally, his voice, superior reporting, and affable manner got me through the horrendous snow storm of '67. He was a true legend in Northwest Indiana broadcasting. I actually had a tape recorder that year, reel to reel, and pretended to be Tom Higgins reporting on the snowstorm. He made you feel safe, and I am sure his family will miss him dearly. Prayers and good wishes to all of you.

Terry Loncaric - July 10, 2015 at 04:05 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas F Higgins.



July 10, 2015 at 12:24 PM



“ *Memories 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Thomas F Higgins.*



July 10, 2015 at 12:12 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Tom Higgins. Rest In Peace Tom. Bob Brooks and sons.*

robert Brooks - July 10, 2015 at 11:05 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas F Higgins.*



July 10, 2015 at 09:05 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas F Higgins.*



July 10, 2015 at 08:57 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas F Higgins.



July 10, 2015 at 08:25 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas F Higgins.



July 10, 2015 at 01:05 AM



“ My memory goes back a few years when I was with Deanne, Patrick, Tom Jr and Mr. Higgins when we sailed to Chicago on a beautiful summer evening with Frank Sinatra singing "my kind of town" on the radio what a wonderful memory.He had such a great sense of humor.He will be missed.

Carol Vonasch - July 09, 2015 at 04:58 PM



“ St John Diagnostic Outpatient Ladies purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas F Higgins.



St John Diagnostic Outpatient Ladies - July 09, 2015 at 03:11 PM

HD

“ *Hannah, Francis, Sandra, & Deanne purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Thomas F Higgins.*



Hannah, Francis, Sandra, & Deanne - July 09, 2015 at 02:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas F Higgins.*



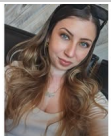
July 09, 2015 at 09:41 AM

SH

“ *Thanks for welcoming me, as a teenage girl, into your life, home and family as I if I was one of your own. You made everyone you met feel special and important. You will be missed. Until we meet again. May your memory be eternal. Life well lived Mr. H.*



Susan Hofferber-Wells - July 09, 2015 at 08:44 AM



“ *Thank you for being the best Papa EVER!!! I LOVE YOU & I MISS YOU ?*



Morgan Bonick - July 08, 2015 at 11:36 PM

BB

“ *Betty & Family ~ My deepest condolences to you at this time of great loss. Tom was an awesome guy, as you all know. What a blessing his family was to him, and he to them. He was always kind and funny when I knew him. Thanks for sharing him with so many. Nancy, I know how much you loved sailing with him. Treasure those memories!! Love and Peace,*

Bette (Holland) Bond

Bette Bond - July 08, 2015 at 10:11 PM

MU

“ *How could we ever know that friends, Hayden Higgins and Michael Finnerty's grandchildren and great-grandchildren would be such good friends. God rest in peace Tom. Michele (Jim)Wise and Kathleen(John) Murphy, Tyler Jacobs, Olivia Wise and family.*



Murphy - July 08, 2015 at 09:56 PM

KM

“ *Thank you for allowing me to be apart of your life. Thank you for touching the lives of those who crossed your path. Thank you for the therapeutic outings on the sailboat where Sinatra and the wind were the only things heard. You gave me peace in troubled times. Thank you for raising such awesome kids. Rest and watch over your loved ones. May God keep you in peace.*



Kim Mitchell - July 08, 2015 at 09:50 PM

SM

To the entire Higgins Family, may God be with you. Words are not enough to express my deepest sympathies.

Sandy Merced-Todd - July 09, 2015 at 07:17 AM

PE

To Nancy and the entire family. We express our deepest sympathy. St John Diagnostic girls.

peggy - July 09, 2015 at 01:45 PM