



## Thomas Lilla

April 30, 1935 - July 1, 2017

Beloved husband of Noreen for 51 wonderful years.

Loving father of Kathryn (Patrick) Cox, Michael (Claudine), Joseph (Monica), Mary Therese, Paul (Heather), Maureen, and Christopher (Sabrina).

Dearest grandfather of Zack, Lucas, Mandy, Riley, Matthew, Hailey, Hunter, Logan, Ruby, Gavin, Henry, August, and Earl.

Thomas Lilla, aka – Tom, Dad, Uncle Tom, Big TL, Papa, Dziadzia, big Kahuna – enjoyed spending time with his wife, family, and friends. He always enjoyed a good party, dancing, jazz, eating out, movies, and anything related to Detroit, including the Tigers, Lafayette Coney Island and Vernors. He graduated from Detroit Pershing High School in 1954. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1960 after two years of service, including time in the Honor Guard. He married Noreen in 1966 and spent the next 51 years with her. Their love resulted in 7 children, who in turn have given Tom and Noreen 13 grandchildren. Tom had a deep love for his wife, children, and grandchildren and life itself. He enjoyed all that it brought and especially the joy in sharing those moments with his family.

His faith played a very important role in his life. He spent time studying the Bible, history of the Catholic Church, attended mass with his wife, and belonged to a men's prayer group at St. Rene. He volunteered for the Perpetual Adoration praying on Wednesdays from 2-3 am and at times longer when needed. His career was spent in various facets of the auto industry as an engineer, manager, and later as a controls estimator. He was a hard

worker who didn't retire until he was 74. In retirement he learned to cook a mean chicken pot pie, he spent time gardening, enjoyed trying to grill during family gatherings.

He bowled in the DLS father/son league for 25 years and managed the league for a period of time. He golfed for many years in DLS father/son outings and had a standing Sunday morning tee times. Throughout his years of golfing, he was very proud of his two holes in ones. He also spent many years coaching his sons and their friends in the WVAC baseball leagues. All of these events and activities mattered to Tom not because of the activities themselves, but because they allowed him to interact with family and friends. He appreciated and took pleasure in the camaraderie, stories, and time spent with people. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to one of Tom's favorite charitable organizations.

Capuchin Soup Kitchen [www.cskdetroit.org](http://www.cskdetroit.org) or Salvation Army [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W 10 Mile Rd  
Southfield, MI

# Previous Events

## Instate

JUL 7. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Rene Goupil Catholic Church  
35955 Ryan Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48310

## Mass of the Christian Burial

JUL 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Rene Goupil Catholic Church  
35955 Ryan Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48310

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Lilla*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Thomas Lilla*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *James Kulbacki*

*This was a great man who led by example, he was a inspiration to me and will be missed dearly. God bless the lilla family I love all of you.*

**james kulbacki** - July 07, 2017 at 08:31 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.*



July 06, 2017 at 01:37 PM

J,

“ So sad to hear about the loss of Tom. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Lilla Family ! He was loved so much and will truly be missed. Remember though, he is not gone from us but just "before" us.

*May The God of Love strengthen you at this time.*

*Diane and John Rank, Sr.*

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**John Rank ,Sr** - July 06, 2017 at 09:37 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.



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July 05, 2017 at 08:54 PM

BW

“ Brian and Heidi Wilson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Thomas Lilla.



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**Brian and Heidi Wilson** - July 05, 2017 at 08:17 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.



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July 05, 2017 at 04:51 PM



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



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July 05, 2017 at 11:31 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.*



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July 05, 2017 at 11:05 AM



“ *International Mold Corporation purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Thomas Lilla.*



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**International Mold Corporation** - July 05, 2017 at 09:43 AM



“ *Stately Lilies was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.*



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July 05, 2017 at 09:05 AM

KR

“ Sending prayers to Kathy and all of her family as they remember Thomas and all he meant to them.

Kristin Rakke - July 04, 2017 at 07:41 PM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.



July 04, 2017 at 09:56 AM



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



July 03, 2017 at 11:22 PM

EB

“ Deepest sympathies to you and your family during this difficult time. "But all God's angels come to us disguised." -James Russell Lowell. With much love: Jim, Erika and Bradley Barnes.

Erika Barnes - July 03, 2017 at 10:24 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.



July 03, 2017 at 02:52 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.



July 03, 2017 at 02:50 PM



“ Christine, Mike, Debi & Imperial Family purchased the Garden Cross for the family of Thomas Lilla.



**Christine, Mike, Debi & Imperial Family** - July 03, 2017 at 01:08 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.



July 03, 2017 at 08:17 AM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Lilla.* ”



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July 02, 2017 at 08:17 PM