

Thomas R. Michels

March 30, 1947 - January 6, 2024

Thomas Richard Michels, 76, of Aurora passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family on January 6, 2024. Tom was born on March 30, 1947 in Aurora and was the son of Edward and Mary (Petit) Michels. He graduated in the class of 1966 from Roncalli High School and in 1968 was drafted into the United States Army where he served the majority of his enlistment in the Panama Canal Zone. Following his time in the Army, Tom attended DeVry University, earned an Associate's Degree from Waubensee Community College and attended Northern Illinois University. In 1971, Tom married the love of his life, Carolyn (Forbes), who he adored for 52 years. Tom is survived by his devoted wife, Carolyn and his four loving children, Stacy Michels, Sara (Donald) Shinault, Anthony (Abigail) Michels and Kristen (Keith) Vernon; two grandchildren, Alysen and Kylie Shinault. He is also survived by his brothers Kenneth (Carol) Michels, John (Terre) Michels, Joseph (Sue) Michels and sister Cele (Frank) Reinert as well as his sister-in-law Judy (David) Mayne and former sister-in-law Karen Michels and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Mary (Petit) Michels, sisters Carol (Morse) and Mary Pat Abel-Michels, brothers-in-law Brad Abel, Charles Forbes and Richard Morse, as well as his father and mother-in-law, Gordan and Margaret Forbes, and dear nephew Peter Michels.

Tom dedicated 41 years working as a driver/salesman for Anheuser-Busch in Montgomery. Tom was an active longtime parishioner of St Joseph Parish in

Aurora, where he was a Eucharist minister, lector and member in multiple ministries and evangelization committees.

Tom loved spending time in his vegetable garden and could be found in the church parking lot after Mass sharing the abundance of tomatoes with fellow parishioners. He enjoyed tinkering around in the garage, working on a number of household projects, or riding his bicycle around the neighborhood where he never met a stranger. After Mass he could be found in the Narthex talking with fellow parishioners and most of the time being the last one to leave the church. Tom loved spending time with his family and especially with his two granddaughters who loved to ride in the cart behind the riding lawnmower. He was a master griller and popcorn connoisseur.

A memorial Mass will be held Monday, January 15, 2024 at 10:00am at St. Joseph Church. Fr. Jerome Leake will officiate. Burial will be private.

A memorial visitation will be held Sunday, January 14, 2024 from 4:00pm until 8:00pm at THE DALEIDEN MORTUARY, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora, 630-631-5500. Please visit our website at www.daleidenmortuary.com where you may leave condolences for Tom's family.

Tom's family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Divine Palliative and Hospice Care in Yorkville, especially Geisi and Kayley for providing him gentle care and supportive guidance to his devoted wife who did everything in her power to keep him in the comfort of his own home during this long journey.

Tom will be greatly missed as he was loved by many.

Memorial contributions may be made in Tom's memory to Lewy Body Dementia Symptoms, Diagnosis and Treatment (lbda.org)

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN **14**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Memorial Mass

JAN **15**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Church
722 High Street
Aurora, IL 60505
1-630-844-7380

Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas R. Michels



Daleiden Mortuary - January 11, 2024 at 11:16 AM

JR

Beautiful family! Tom you will so missed by the St. Joseph community! It was always a pleasure to see you! Your smile and great advice will be missed! our family will be offering prayers to you and your family.
Juanita Rodriguez

Juanita Rodriguez - January 14, 2024 at 09:55 AM

FE

Tom was a genuinely caring and devoted man of Christ and I will remember him fondly as we grew up on Lehnertz Ave. Please let him rest in the Peace of God. My sincerest sympathy for those who grieve the loss of this kind soul,

Faye (Michels) Edlund - January 14, 2024 at 06:41 PM



*Beautiful tribute video. ❤️
Love and miss you, Uncle Tom*

Sandy Samberg - January 15, 2024 at 08:43 AM

LS

“ Tom and I went to the same High School (Roncalli). We were the first graduate class.

I want to to give my condolences to his WONDERFUL family. I spent a lot of time with the family. Tom and I were in a Saturday morning prayer group. That's were I first met him. I have made a few mistakes in my life and one of my worst was breaking away from him and his family!! I feel very sad right now!!

Larry Seidelman

Larry Seidelman - January 14, 2024 at 10:37 PM

CE

My condolences. Catherine

Catherine M. J. Mary Evans - January 14, 2024 at 10:39 PM

LT

“ Tom and were classmates, cousins and Lehnertz Ave kids together. He always was so gentle and kind. Everytime we'd cross paths as adults he had all the time in the world to catch up! I have loved seeing the photos posted here, as I will not be able to attend his Mass. Prayers and my deep sympathy are with you. He has a special place with our Savior.

Linda Michels Taylor - January 14, 2024 at 06:34 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas R. Michels.



January 14, 2024 at 12:16 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas R. Michels.*



January 14, 2024 at 11:05 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas R. Michels.*



January 13, 2024 at 06:49 PM



“ *Tom & Denise Rogers purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Thomas R. Michels.*



Tom & Denise Rogers - January 13, 2024 at 02:57 PM



“ *Tom & Denise Rogers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas R. Michels.*

Tom & Denise Rogers - January 13, 2024 at 02:57 PM

FL

“ We are sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Being around him was always uplifting. He is a true presence of Christ among us. Our love and prayers are with the family.

Frank and Rita Lempa

FRANK & RITA LEMPA - January 13, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Thomas R. Michels.



January 13, 2024 at 11:05 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Thomas R. Michels.



January 13, 2024 at 10:19 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of Thomas R. Michels.



January 13, 2024 at 08:06 AM

TF

“ The Mayne Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas R. Michels.

The Mayne Families - January 13, 2024 at 08:06 AM

BS

“ Deepest sympathy and prayers to the entire Michels family. Betty Nash

Bobbie Soris - January 12, 2024 at 04:51 PM

LT

“ Tom was such a wonderful man who always took time to talk to me and share his great wisdom. You will be greatly missed. By living such a faith filled life as a servant of Christ, he was such a role model to all. May God grant you eternal rest Tom. Peace, comfort and love to Carolyn and family.

Lori Turner - January 12, 2024 at 02:46 PM



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



January 12, 2024 at 02:06 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas R. Michels.*



January 12, 2024 at 02:01 AM



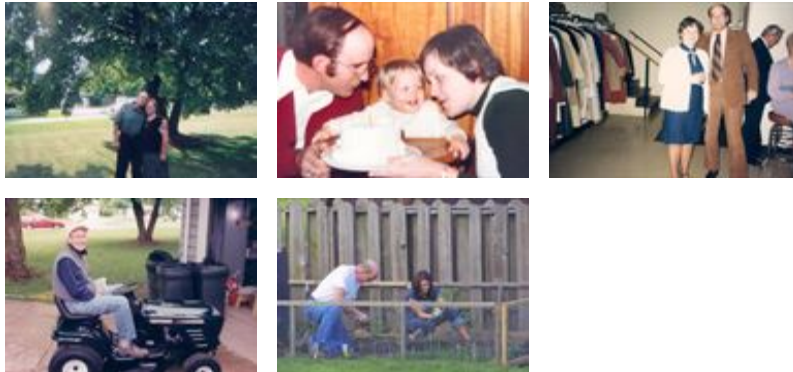
“ *From Dave and Judy Mayne and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas R. Michels.*



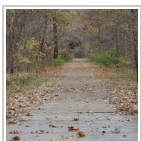
From Dave and Judy Mayne and Family - January 11, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ *50 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Daleiden Mortuary - January 11, 2024 at 11:11 AM



“ *God rest his soul. He was a great man. My prayers are with Carolyn and all who are grieving his loss.*

Fr. McMorrow - January 10, 2024 at 11:34 AM

TM

“ Tom always had a smile and time for a conversation. He had a way of making a person feel they were the most important thing to him when conversing. Remembering Tom can't be done without acknowledging his deep spiritual faith filled life and servant of Christ attitude. You will be missed Tom. May God grant you rest. Peace and comfort to Carolyn and family.

Terry Michels - January 09, 2024 at 10:04 PM

PM

“ Oh, the laughs and silly stories Tom shared, as well as love and support, and help with moves!! Aurora felt like a second home to me because of the Michels family. I hope it comforts you knowing Tom is with Jesus now, serving there on the Praise Team!! I love you all and will be with you in spirit and thought. Prayers for strength and comfort.

Prudie McFarland

Prudence McFarland - January 09, 2024 at 09:36 PM

OR

“ Our thoughts and prayers for Michael's family Tom was a wonderful person he will be missed rest in peace. Isa & Octavian Ratiu

Octavian. F. Ratiu - January 09, 2024 at 11:42 AM

OF

“ Octavian F. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Thomas R. Michels.



Octavian F. - January 09, 2024 at 11:24 AM

DN

“ Sending sympathy and prayers to Tom's family. He was a beautiful person who will be missed. May his memory be eternal.

Debi Michels Nolte - January 09, 2024 at 11:16 AM

JT

“ Our thought n prayers go out to Carolyn and the family. What a great and typical picture of Tom. Tom was one of the few people I knew that always placed you more important than himself. A trait few people possess. He just had that knack of making you feel good whenever you talked to him. Truly an ambassador of good people. When God calls us to a different life one thing he gave us are memories to keep forever. Rest in peace Tom . Lin & Joe Toma

joe toma - January 09, 2024 at 10:59 AM

JJ

“ Our prayers and condolences are with the entire Michels family. Tom was a wonderful person and neighbor of my mother, and always willing to help her or anyone else in need. God Bless, John Juneau and Family

John Juneau - January 09, 2024 at 10:33 AM

MO

“ Tom was instrumental in my & Bobs faith journey through marriage encounter. A wonderful example of living his faith. Prayers to Caroline & family for comfort & peace.

mary obrien - January 09, 2024 at 06:31 AM

LH

“ Tom was a great role model of Catholic faith. He kept things light yet relevant! He always had a faith filled comment when we met before and/or after Mass. He and Carolyn were role models of marriage and family! Thank you for all the good times. You are forever in my heart.

Linda Higgs - January 08, 2024 at 11:44 PM