



Thomas Grunstra

July 25, 1932 - December 17, 2021

Thomas "Tom" Grunstra, age 89, passed away on December 17, 2021 at home of natural causes.

Tom was born in Kingston, New York on July 25, 1932 to the late Seba Grunstra and Catherine Reynierse Grunstra. He is also preceded in death by his brother Bernard; daughter Pamela Croson; and son Daryl Grunstra.

Tom is survived by his wife, Ellie of 36 years; his daughter, Tamara Shockley (and her husband, Gary); stepchildren, Cindy Munger, Michael Sweeney, William Sweeney (and his wife, Denise), Denise Zaner, Kelly Dove, and Ben Lashey (and his wife, Janie). He is also survived by 30 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and two brothers, James and Maynard.

Tom was employed by Bowie Hall Trucking as a truck driver and then night-time dispatcher. This is where he met the love of his life, Ellie, and moved to La Plata, MD in 1979. In 1986, Tom and Ellie started a successful catering business named Ellie Mae's where Tom was referred to as "Mr. Ellie Mae." After closing the business and before fully retiring, Tom worked for 14 years as a part-time courier with County First Bank where they nick-named him "Thumper." Tom fully retired in September 2014.

Tom was an active member of McLean Bible Church. He fully enjoyed working around the house and having a huge garden each year. He also enjoyed going to church every Sunday and co-hosting Bible Study on Tuesday nights. He was a faithful and loving husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Funeral Service and Interment on Tuesday December 28, at 11am at Heritage Memorial Cemetery, 13472 Poplar Hill Road, Waldorf MD 20601.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Tom's honor to Jill's House. Online donations can be made at jillshouse.org or checks can be mailed to Jill's House, 9011 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182.

Cemetery Details

Heritage Memorial Cemetery

13472 Poplar Hill Road
Waldorf, MD 20601

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Heritage Memorial Cemetery
13472 Poplar Hill Road
Waldorf, MD 20601

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Grunstra*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Thomas Grunstra*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *I grew up on the farm that Tom had, I was just 14 years old when my father died & Tom took me in to live with Daryl, Tamara, & Pamela. He taught me so much about me so much about life @ such a tender time in my life. I lost touch with the family over the years. But I love them all. Jesse McInerney Sr. Tamera if your out there & you see this, please look me up. Love you sis..:-) Tom was a wonderful Man, we will be together again one day. Praise be to God.:-) :-)*

Jesse McInerney - February 27, 2022 at 11:57 PM

TA

“ Memories of my Dad consist of:
-- Him kneeling beside me at my bed to listen to me
as I said my bedtime prayers as a child;
-- My brother use to set up a "haunted house" in the basement of our childhood home and this particular memory, Dad had put a sheet over his bed to be the ghost with a broom swatting us as my sister and I would exit the "haunted house" by way of the stairs that led out of the basement;
-- spending "family time" with him in the pig pen as the sow was giving birth. Dad would be there so the sow would not lay on a piglet that was just born as the sow labored for the next piglet to be born;
-- calling him in from the fields for dinner time;
-- him walking me down the aisle with a big grin on his face.
Thank you for ALL of my memories and for all of the many others that have their memories of you too! Love you and look forward to seeing you in Heaven



Tami - January 12, 2022 at 07:26 PM

ES

“ Tom or "Pop pop" was always very kind toward me. I am sorry to hear of his passing. I am sending my love.

Ellie Shockley - December 27, 2021 at 12:28 PM

JB

“ I sure did enjoy my time with Tom. He had a great way of looking at things. He was so organized, knew how to break it down to the important pieces, and kept wonderful, detailed records. He brought a smile to everyone he worked with, telling everyone 'Happy Halloween' and answering that he was doing 'terrible.' He was such a hard worker, too- he worked harder in his 70s and 80s than most of us do in our prime! I will miss him!

Jason Barbour - December 26, 2021 at 04:53 PM

JF

“ I met Tom when i first started to attend MBC in 2003, and volenteered along with him in the CD ministry downstairs. After 18 years of friendship, i came to know Tom as a devoted Christian, husband & father. If i can not have the patience of Job, May God grant me the patience of TOM !

John Fulcher - December 23, 2021 at 04:57 PM

GS

“ When Tom and I drove tractor trailers for Bowie Hall, his CB handle was "Terrible Tom".
When I would pass him on the road, I would call out to him on the radio and ask him how he was doing and he would always tell me he was doing "just terrible". This would always make me laugh.
Thank you for the memories! --Gary

Gary Shockley - December 22, 2021 at 09:08 PM

DH

I too worked with TT at bht, wonderful man to teach us youngsters.
Dave h

David harris - April 30, 2023 at 03:05 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Thomas Grunstra.



December 21, 2021 at 11:23 AM

MC

“ *What a wonderful man. Prayers and hugs Ellie Mae and the family!
MaryJane & MaryEllen*

MaryJane Cupples - December 21, 2021 at 02:32 AM

JE

“ *Our sincere condolences, love, thoughts and prayers. We cherish all the memories we've made with Tom and Ellie through the years.
Keech & Joyce Edelen*



Joyce Edelen - December 20, 2021 at 12:52 PM

CB

I met Tom when ellie and him started dating. He has always been a wonderful and loving husband to my best friend ellie. I'll always love him for the good friend he was to me. Rip Tom and God bless you

Carol (dizzy) buchanan - December 20, 2021 at 02:37 PM

DB

Shared a couple of pictures from his brother Jim's visit a couple months ago. Would love to have shared more pics and videos, but this site won't accept anything over a certain amount of MB. Know that it is was a visit we will always remember. Tom was still the same sweet man.

Debbie B. - December 26, 2021 at 05:32 PM

CR

I first met Tom as a Teller at County First Bank. We developed a friendship due to our love of the Lord Jesus. Tom invited me to his home for a Tuesday evening Bible study during the course of our working relationship. Distance was a factor for a while, then I relocated to the La Plata branch, which made it possible to attend the Bible study. It was a joy to be apart of his family and to study God's Word with Tom and Ellie. Tom was a witness for the Lord and always had a gospel tract ready to share. Although, Tom will be missed greatly here on earth, if you know the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior, we will see him again in Heaven.

Carolyn Riggins - December 27, 2021 at 12:47 PM



20 + years I have had the pleasure of Tom and Ellie's friendship - I worked with Tom for about 15 of those years and he was always a hoot! He was always "terrible" he constantly said "happy Halloween" he often said "what do I need to know about" and the "thumper" noise was always evident when he was returning from a courier run-but most evident and cherished was Toms love for Christ and sharing the gospel and him inviting me to Bible Study which has been the most rewarding from our friendship -he and Ellie are rare in this world and have been true blessings in whoever's life they have touched -RIP-"toe mass"as I fondly called him at times and may the Lord keep Ellie strong in her days forward without him here on earth but oh what a HAPPY day it will be when we ALL get to HEAVEN for those of us that ARE SAVED ❤️ And we will all see each other again Much love and prayers to the family and friends of Tom -he is already missed ❤️

Mary Baxter - December 28, 2021 at 03:29 PM