



Thomas H. Nowakowski

May 27, 1921 - June 3, 2011

Thomas Harry (Duke) Nowakowski passed away peacefully after a short illness and a long life on June 3, 2011 with his eldest daughters by his side. Born on May 27, 1921 to Albert and Agnes (Tomas) Nowkowski , he had just celebrated his 90th birthday with a weekend of festivities with his children and friends.

Tom was known as a gentle, kind man to all and he left wonderful memories for his children, family and friends. He is remembered by his children as a kind and gentle father who coaxed them into behaving as youngsters with humor and patience (“You won’t get any...”). He’s remembered by all with gratitude for serving his country as an honorable and responsible WWII pilot in the Army Air Force. Tom served in the Pacific theatre near the end of the war and flew in many missions. As he grew older, he shared his WWII stories with younger generations and continued to participate with the Catholic War Veterans in weekly card games. In fact, many many people remember Tom’s avid card playing. His original love of Pinochle was complimented by his recent favorite card game of Texas Hold’em. In Naples Florida, where he lived for the last 2 years, his many friends called him “the Pirate” because of his skill and cunning at the game (and the pirate flag on his trike).

After WWII, Tom worked as a tool and die maker and inspector at O’Connell Tool & Die for many years, then retired from Chrysler after 20 years, from which he retired in 1985. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 49

years, Catherine (Kate) Sneider Nowakowski in 1994. Besides Tom's parents and Katie, he was preceded in death by his brothers John and Raymond Nowakowski and sisters, Joan Schlautmann and Dorothy Sherwin (May 28th 2011). His little sister, Rose (Robert) DeArment, survives along with many of nieces and nephews.

Memories of his blessedly long life comfort his 5 children, who survive: Ann Nowakowski of Naples Florida, Joe (Barbara) Nowakowski of Toledo, Matt (Martha) Nowakowski of Toledo, Drs. Mary Beth (Dennis) Zoglo of Superior Colorado and Barbara (Ron) Vidra of Delta. His 10 grandchildren Thomas and Steven Barry, Kelly Villarreal, Jennifer and Melissa Nowakowski, Albert and Amanda Nowakowski, Kevin, Marie, and Christy Zoglo are left with magical memories of walking in the woods with Grandpa Tom and being told to “watch out for Indians”. Fifteen great grandchildren and Winne (his dog) will also miss him greatly.

Friends may call at the Coyle Funeral Home 1770 S. Reynolds Road Thursday from 2-8 p.m. where a scripture service will be recited at 7 p.m. The funeral will begin in the mortuary Friday at 9:30 a.m. followed by a funeral Mass in St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in Resurrection Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ *When I was little, what I remember most about Uncle Tom was that he seemed like the tallest man in the world. Also, that he was very nice to little people like me. As an adult, I pretty much only saw him at family reunions, but I watched those pinochle games with interest (I would never play -- too "professional" for me!), hoping that I'd learn something. He was a good man and a great uncle.##imported-begin##Alison Sneider asneider71@msn.com##imported-end##*

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *So very sorry to hear of Uncle Tommy death. We were planning on coming to the funeral but the weather discouraged us. I truly wanted to be there and that is where my heart is. I have many fond memories of your father and will miss him. God Bless.....Anne##imported-begin##Anne & Jerry Houghton amhoughton@dmcibb.net##imported-end##*

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Barb and Mary (and the rest of the family)-
What a beautiful tribute to a kind man. I know you will miss your Dad, but find peace knowing that he and your Mom are together again. So sorry I missed you at visitation, was out of town, but thinking of you.##imported-begin##Debbie Papenfus
Harrigan##imported-end##*

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Ann and Family - may your memories of such a wonderful man ease your pain, and after a long life may "The Pirate" rest in peace.##imported-begin##Deb & Lee McMahon##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts are with you all. As I remember, he was dedicated to his family and friends. Holiday get togethers were always a blast! Oh and the Christmas tree burnings were the best. The Mowery's##imported-begin##Kathy Mowery Kulwicki##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH HIS WONDERFUL FAMILY AND GOD SPEED TO THOMAS##imported-begin##WAYNE &ELINOR GALLUP##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mary and Family,

What a wonderful tribute. I know your father meant so much to you.

With love,

Steph##imported-begin##Stephanie Kirby##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolence to the Nowakowski family and God Bless Thomas.##imported-begin##Lou Hernandez##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ He was a wonderful man it was our pleasure to have known him our prayers are with his family for this great loss##imported-begin##Keith and Marie##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Hello old friends,it saddens me deeply to here of the loss of your father.Uncle Tom has now joined Aunt Kate in heaven.I will allways remember them in my prayers.I will allso remember the good times growing up on Stateview Dr. and all of you.God bless you all and I am sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##John Biniak##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We can only offer our condolences and our prayers. We loved him too!##imported-begin##Mike and Dorothy mljsne@bex.net##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We will miss him and his weekly calls. All the family are in our prayers.##imported-begin##Bob & Helen Sneider hsneider2314@aol.com##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Ann and family - that was a beautiful obituary for your dad. He will be missed but you'll have a lot of good memories.##imported-begin##Al and Maxine Sebes maxsebes@yahoo.com##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Anne so sorry for your loss, Tom will be greatly missed by all. We will miss seeing him when we come to Paradise this year and I am sure he really enjoyed his time living in Florida and being so close to you. You are all in our thoughts. Much love & massive (((HUGS)))
xxx xx##imported-begin##Sharron & Mickeyvee##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ You will be sadly missed Tom especially by your friends from Poker at Paradise Pointe. Tom did love his poker.##imported-begin##Maureen and Mick Kent
goldengirluk@talktalk.net##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To all our Nowakowski Cousins: Our most sincere condolences on the loss of your Dad.
You were all so fortunate to have the model parents. We have lost another hero of the Greatest Generation.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
John and Ann Mackley and Family##imported-begin##John and Ann Mackley Family blhomes@bex.net##imported-end##

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Melissa, Im so sorry for your loss. You and your parents were a great help when mom passed in October. Your grandpa sounds like he was a very good man. I can see his kindness was passed down in your family.every time I drive down Heatherdowns I think of how kind you and your family were to us in our time of sadness and that lyman boat your father was restoring.GOD BLESS YOU ALL. Scott Betts##imported-begin##scott betts##imported-end##*

June 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM