



## Thomas Leonard Sheffler

September 17, 1941 - October 9, 2022

Thomas L. Sheffler, age 81, of Toledo died October 9, 2022 at his home in Holland, Ohio. Tom retired in 1998, after 31 years teaching History and Spanish at Lake Local HS. Tom graduated from Bowling Green HS in 1959 where he was a member of the wrestling team and the National Thespian Society. Tom acted in the lead role of the Senior Class play and was lauded in his yearbook as having loads of class spirit. Of the accomplishments in his life, Tom was proudest of having been among the first group to answer President JFK's call to join the Peace Corps where he served for two years in a small village north of Tsótota in Colombia, South America. Tom returned to Bowling Green and continued his education graduating from Bowling Green State University with a BA degree in Spanish in 1967. There he met another student, Mary Margaret Hennessey of Troy OH and they were married on August 19th that same year.

Before moving to Holland, OH and becoming a member at Little Flower Parish Tom was an active member of OLPH where both of his daughters attended school and he was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society which attends to the needs of the poor. He helped with other parish activities including Bingo and the annual rummage sale. He was also a Eucharistic Minister and volunteered to distribute communion to Catholic patients at UTMC weekly. After retirement Tom attended daily mass with a group who became known as The Morning Glory's. Tom also served as a volunteer usher for the Toledo

Symphony Orchestra.

Tom loved living in Toledo and enjoyed many hours weekly in the Metro parks on long walks with Mary. He visited the Toledo Museum of Art frequently and was fond of many of the art works in the permanent collection. He loved the Zoo which was only a block away from his first family home on Princeton Ave.

Tom and Mary travelled widely to Europe, including Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Ireland, and Great Britain; to South America, including Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile; sailing the Greek Isles; to Southeast Asia, including Angkor Wat in Cambodia, the Mekong Delta and Vietnam; and an expedition on the Amazon River.

Tom grew up in a farming family and for many years he helped his father and his older brother, Jim on the family farm along the Sugar Ridge Road in Wood County. Aside from farming, Tom was a master of many working skills. He earned his way through college as a union fork-lift driver at H.J. Heinz in Bowling Green, and later he was a professional house painter and often doing work for many of his friends. These are among the many things Tom accomplished in his life. But what truly defined him was his gentle personality, his soft voice, his humility and lack of ostentation, and above all, his generous and loving attention to Mary and his two daughters whom he worshipped, and to the many friends whom he loved and was loved by over the years. Everyone who really knew Tom loved him for these qualities, and for his steadfastness and honesty.

Tom was born on September 17, 1941 in Bowling Green, Ohio the son of James F. Sheffler, a tool and die maker and farmer and Cletus Eckel Sheffler an English and Latin teacher. He was the second of 5 children. He was predeceased by his younger brother Dudley (Barbara). He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Margaret, his two daughters Jennifer Reed (Brad) of

Toledo, Ohio and Meredith Walker (Michael Stuart) of Lexington, Kentucky; his brothers James H. (Sherri) of Pemberville, Ohio, Ronald (Christine) of San Carlos, California, and his sister Laura Gray (Ron) of Midway, Kentucky. Tom also has one beloved granddaughter, Julia Thomas Walker of Lexington, Kentucky.

The visitation will be Sunday, October 16 at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. Toledo, OH 43614 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. The funeral will be Monday, October 17 at Little Flower Parish 5522 Door St. Toledo, OH 43615 at 11:00 a.m., with an hour of visitation beginning at 10:00. Burial will be immediately following at New Bellville Ridge Cemetery in Bowling Green, OH. Father Reinhart and Father Kahle will officiate. In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made to the Cherry Street Mission, Little Flower Parish or your St. Vincent de Paul society. Please view Tom's memorial video tribute and leave a condolence message at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## New Belleville Ridge

County Rd. 8  
Bowling Green, OH 43402

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **16**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Visitation

OCT **17**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Little Flower Catholic Church  
5562 Dorr St.  
Toledo, OH 43615

## Mass

OCT **17**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Little Flower Catholic Church  
5562 Dorr St.  
Toledo, OH 43615



# Tribute Wall

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - October 15, 2022 at 02:19 PM

RA

*Senor Tomas was always classy and I enjoyed learning Spanish from him. I learned so much in only two years (frosh & soph) that I was able to validate a full year at the Naval Academy. Sad to hear of his passing.*

Randall Avers - October 24, 2022 at 06:27 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas Leonard Sheffler.*



October 15, 2022 at 09:52 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Thomas Leonard Sheffler.*



October 15, 2022 at 09:29 AM

EB

“ From the role of my teacher and eventually my neighbor, I am truly a better person for knowing Tom (and Mary). I was sad when they moved but appreciated seeing them occasionally at OLPH events and visiting in the neighborhood. Tom was a wonderful teacher and friend and will be sadly missed. Thank you for teaching me Spanish, showing me that my world can be as large as I want it and sharing *El Greco*, *Don Quixote* and the Spanish language and stories of your beautiful family.

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**Ellen Barnhizer** - October 15, 2022 at 06:01 AM

CU

“ I taught at Lake High School with Tom starting in 1970. I was just out of college and this was my first teaching job. Tom was so kind and helpful to me starting on my very first day. Yes the students all loved him. Not only was he a great teacher but he listened to them and had a great sense of humor. My prayers to his entire family.  
*Connie Ulmer*

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**connie ulmet** - October 14, 2022 at 01:18 PM

DH

“ *SenorSheffler* was my favorite teacher at Lake. I took 3 years of Spanish because of what a wonderful teacher he was. He was kind, stern when you messed around but compassionate when you made mistakes. As a young shy lady sitting in his classroom in school he always made me feel like I mattered in this world. Encouraging and sharing in my dream to go to college. Which I did at BGSU- and he liked my choice. He gave a piece of his heart and life to a young shy and quiet lady years ago sitting in his classroom trying not to be noticed. His encouragement led me to BGSU where I earned a degree to help and serve others. I'm very thankful that the Lord placed as him in my life. I am so very blessed to have known him. *Prayering for his family.*

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**Diane Sisler Harrah** - October 14, 2022 at 12:17 AM

KH

“ We love you so much Tio Tomas. Thank you for sharing your kind heart, warm smile, and always upbeat, joyful spirit with our whole family. We will teach Kaiden Spanish and make you proud. You are deeply loved and deeply missed. Te amamos Tio.

Kate Hennessey - October 13, 2022 at 10:03 PM

KL

“ Sr. Sheffler was the favorite teacher I never had! He always stood outside of his classroom between classes and greeted everyone. He really looked like he loved his job. A wonderful life. A gigantic loss.

Kris Livingston - October 13, 2022 at 06:48 PM

LF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I have many fond memories of Senior Sheffler from Spanish class. I wasn't the best 'Spanish student' but we had a lot of fun in those 4 yrs. He always asked about my parents...'How is Chuck doing?' He would say every day. 😊. Adios Senior. You were a great teacher.

LeAnn Fisher-Gaiser - October 13, 2022 at 04:28 PM

DG

“ Señor Sheffler inspired me to become a teacher and a teacher of Spanish. I attended BGSU and did all my observation hours at Lake with him. I have many fond memories. He was the best! God's blessings to your family and cherish all the memories! Diane Geigle WAI, SD

Diane Geigle - October 12, 2022 at 08:23 PM

BE

“ *Bill and Beth Earhart purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas Leonard Sheffler.*



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**Bill and Beth Earhart** - October 12, 2022 at 12:33 AM

BE

“ *So many memories-  
so many late night discussions after our High School reunions- and  
you would never know Tom was not a member of our class!  
He was a classy-dear- fun - happy- engaging - sincere man!  
He was a dear soul-  
He gave so much - expected so little - and was always true to  
himself!*

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**beth earhart** - October 11, 2022 at 10:40 PM

RJ

*My heart is breaking for you, Mary. Tom was always fun to talk to. We enjoyed his company. He made you feel like he was interested in all you had to say. I wish we had met for lunch more often. Prayers for all of you. Love and hugs.*

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**Rosemary Jones** - October 13, 2022 at 09:57 AM

RM

*Sr. Sheffler was a wonderful teacher and a really good human being. My memories of him are all of a smiling, often laughing, man who was generous and kind with his students. May God give his family comfort and peace.*

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**Ramona Morris** - October 13, 2022 at 04:17 PM

CG

*Dear Mary:*

*It is with a heavy heart that Ali and I heard of your loss. We had not seen him out walking in the neighborhood for quite some time. I recall seeing you walking by yourself, and you stated that Tom had some "health concerns". We shall miss you, Tom, walking with your lovely Mary. Most sincerely, Cynthia and Ali Gilman*

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**Cynthia Gilman** - October 13, 2022 at 05:55 PM

BS

*Sheffler family. Our thoughts are with you as you go thru this difficult time. We both worked with Tom at Lake. Always upbeat and had a big smile. Nancy. Bob Slykhuis*

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**Bob Slykhuis** - October 13, 2022 at 06:42 PM

MG

*Mary, I am very sorry for your loss. Thinking of and praying for you. Martha (Orsborn) Gerdeman*

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**Martha Gerdeman** - October 13, 2022 at 08:02 PM

SS

*Although in Colorado for many years, we kept in touch with our dear BGSU pals & neighbors, Tom & Mary. It was truly sudden & heartbreaking to hear of his death.*

*We always remember Tom with a big grin and positive, cheerful attitude ! Mary, we take comfort in recalling so many fond memories of the times we shared with you both. He led a remarkable & honorable life !  
Sally & Fritz Snider*

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**Sally Snider** - October 17, 2022 at 01:33 PM