



Thomas A. Smiley

November 10, 1947 - September 16, 2024

Thomas A. "Tom" Smiley, 76 of Bluffton, passed away on Monday evening, September 16, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Tom was born on November 10, 1947, in Bluffton to Bernard V. & Rosetta J. (Earhart) Smiley. He graduated from Pennville High School with the class of 1965. He played college basketball and baseball on a scholarship at William Penn University. Tom was drafted into the United States Army, where he honorably served during Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. After returning home from the service, Tom worked construction and retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad as a signal maintainer. On April 8, 1972, at the First United Methodist Church, Tom and Nancy A. (Schaffter) Smiley were married.

He enjoyed playing golf, helping his children and grandchildren with their 4-H livestock projects, and enjoyed attending his children and grandchildren's sporting events. He was a longtime member of the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Nancy of Bluffton, children; Charlie (Sherri) Smiley of Zanesville, Ernie Smiley of Bluffton and Sarah (Pastor Wayne) Ball of Bluffton. He was a loving PAL to his five grandchildren: Brandon (Chanda) Bennett of Bluffton, Will, Andrew, Gabe & Emma Ball of Bluffton and a great-grandson, Austin Bennett, along with two sisters, Joleen & Loretta.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Steve and sister, Darla. Visitation will take place from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Thursday, (Sept.19, 2024)

at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Funeral Services will take place at 1 P.M. on Thursday, (Sept. 19, 2024) at the funeral home with Pastor Wayne Ball and Jeff Lemler officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton with full military honors by the United States Army Honor Guard and American Legion Post #111 Honor Guard.

Memorials may be made to the Wells County 4-H Program for the Cattle, Hog & Sheep Barns, or River of Life Community Church, and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Smiley family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

3101 East Division Road
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-2832
<http://www.themonumentcenter.com/about/cemeteries/>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 19. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Funeral Service

SEP 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas A. Smiley*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - September 19, 2024 at 02:47 PM

KF

“ *Ernie, I'm so sorry for your loss and your family's loss. May God be with you during this time of sorrow. God bless you, Kelly Jo F*

Kelly Jo F - September 20, 2024 at 11:43 PM

TG

“ *Tom was a member of the legion softball team that won the state tournament.*

Terry Green - September 19, 2024 at 09:12 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas A. Smiley.*



September 19, 2024 at 10:37 AM

DT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Tilstra - September 18, 2024 at 09:56 PM

MA

My Brothers

michael art - September 20, 2024 at 03:15 PM

DT

“ David & Lori Tilstra purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas A. Smiley.



David & Lori Tilstra - September 18, 2024 at 09:40 PM



“ 84 files added to the album Life Tributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - September 18, 2024 at 06:50 PM

TH

“ I enjoyed working with Tom in the Signal Department, he was a great guy and honored to call him my friend.



Toby Jo Hullinger - September 18, 2024 at 06:37 PM

TA

“ Tom was a friend and fellow combat soldier. I was in battles with this fine soldier. He was a stud and if he had your back, you were covered. RIP my friend.

Thomas Frank Aiken - September 18, 2024 at 06:16 PM

TF

“ The Baker Family purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Thomas A. Smiley.



The Baker Family - September 18, 2024 at 01:45 PM

TF

“ The Baker Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas A. Smiley.

The Baker Family - September 18, 2024 at 01:45 PM

TC

“ *Tippecanoe Lake Country Club purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Thomas A. Smiley.*



Tippecanoe Lake Country Club - September 18, 2024 at 12:12 PM

TC

“ *Tippecanoe Lake Country Club planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas A. Smiley.*

Tippecanoe Lake Country Club - September 18, 2024 at 12:12 PM

SK

“ *Charley, Ernie and families. Sad to read about your Dad's passing. Always too soon to say goodbye. RIP Tom.*

Steve Kunkel - September 18, 2024 at 11:52 AM