



## Thomas "Turkey" H. Ayers

July 24, 1951 - January 21, 2010

Thomas H. "Turkey" Ayers, 58, of rural Bluffton, died at 6 a.m. Thursday at his residence after a 14-year battle with cancer. His family was with him as he died. Mr. Ayers was a 1970 graduate of Norwell High School and was a lifelong resident of Wells County. He worked at Troxel Equipment for 40 years, starting at the age of 18. He sold Brock Bins. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton for more than 40 years. He was a loving and devoted father who enjoyed spending time with his children. He was an avid Indiana University and Indianapolis Colts fan. He loved to golf, ski, and go on fishing trips.

Mr. Ayers was born July 24, 1951, in Bluffton, to Robert H. Ayers and Margaret E. Henry Ayers. His mother survives in Bluffton. Also surviving are three daughters, Samantha J. (Zachary) Zoll of Ossian and Emilee E. Ayers and Alexandra R. Ayers, both of Bluffton; a son, Joel T. Ayers of Bluffton; two grandchildren, Hunter A. T. Zoll and Savannah J. Zoll; and a brother, Joe (Doreen) Ayers of Bluffton.

A brother, William H. Ayers, preceded him in death. Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday at Thoma/Rich, Chaney, and Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday at the First United Methodist Church of Bluffton. Services will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday at the church with Rev. Cindy Osgood officiating. Preferred memorials are to Family Hospice and Palliative Care, the American Cancer Society, or to the family. Online condolences: [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **23**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-3850  
info@thomarich.com

## Visitation

JAN **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
325 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN

## Service

JAN **24**. 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
325 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas "Turkey" H. Ayers*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - January 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thomas "Turkey" H. Ayers*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I have been gone from the area for over 30 years, but good old Tom recognized me right away at the 2008 Street Fair. We caught up on a lot of good times we had when we were in High School. I Didn't even know he was fighting cancer. I know he will be truely missed by all that knew him just because of his loving and carefree attitude. I know that he is at peace.##imported-begin##Ron Hilsmier##imported-end##*

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January 24, 2010 at 02:33 PM



“ I want to send my sympathy to all of Tom's family. He was such a great friend, I always enjoyed seeing him at our get togethers when I came back to visit. I know there were times when he probably didn't feel that well, but he was always there with a smile and a hug. School days with Turkey was such a blast, I can still him laughing and joking around, every one loved him. He has shown us all how to live each day with love, kindness and courage to go on, when things in life get tuff. I will miss you friend!!!##imported-begin##Susie Speheger Tinnel##imported-end##

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January 23, 2010 at 07:41 PM



“ To the Ayers family i am so sorry to h ear about the passing of my friend "Turkey". He was such a wonderful friend. Everytime u saw him he had such a good outlook on life even though we knew he wasn't always feeling good. He had such a long battle with his fight for life but he never gave up. He fought the good fight and finished his course now he is with his Saviour Jesus Christ. We will be praying for the family God Bless. Till we meet again "Turkey" We love u your friend "Cros".##imported-begin##Barry Crosbie##imported-end##

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January 22, 2010 at 11:39 PM



“ To the Family of Tom, I had the opportunity to visit with Tom when he was in the hospital back in December and really enjoyed our visit. As a former classmate we shared some good times. Tom put up a great fight right till the very end. May God be with the family at this sad time but we all know that Tom is no longer suffering nor is he in pain. He is our guardian angel looking down on all of us and giving all of us encouragement to carry on.##imported-begin##Kris Bushee##imported-end##

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January 22, 2010 at 07:02 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss.

*Roy Hanauer-Norwell Class of 1970.##imported-begin##Roy Hanauer##imported-end##*

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January 22, 2010 at 04:23 PM



“ We are so saddened to lose a friend like Turkey. He fought a good fight, and came out a winner in the end! Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Sorry that we aren't there to pay our respects in person~but he knew we loved him! Rest in peace Turkey.##imported-begin##Jr and Charlie Lantz##imported-end##

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January 22, 2010 at 03:41 PM



“ It saddens me so to see this but can only hope that Tom is now free from pain. Love to you all.

*Marge##imported-begin##David & Marjorie Haines and daughters##imported-end##*

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January 22, 2010 at 01:55 PM



“ My sympathy, thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Turkey. I was so blessed to have known him for many years, and to have called him my wonderful friend. May God bless you all.##imported-begin##Linda Barnes##imported-end##

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January 22, 2010 at 01:03 PM



“ We are so sorry about your loss. Our hearts and prayers go out to your family.##imported-begin##Dave & Vic Jefferies##imported-end##

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January 22, 2010 at 08:27 AM



“ tom aka turkey we will miss you greatly but rest asured we will see you in heaven so save us a seat life is short but friends are forever see you friend##imported-begin##cedric & kris decker##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 09:15 PM



“ Tom is came to the end of his 14 year battle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma today. He has been an inspiration with his quiet strength and love for family and friends. Tom was my brother-in-law by marriage, but brother by choice, and I love him dearly. Rest now, Tom, in the arms of Jesus. I love you, Dori##imported-begin##Doreen Ayers##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 06:49 PM



“ Heaven is a happier place now that Turkey is there. Thinking of your family and sending lots of love, prayers, and sympathy from Virginia. -Andi##imported-begin##Andi (Roth) Gearheart##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 05:59 PM



“ My condolences to the family and friends of this great person. We will miss his presence and know he's in a better place.##imported-begin##Gordy Beemer##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 05:50 PM



“ We are thankful for the opportunity to have known Tom. He demonstrated the characteristics of true modesty and sincerity through his words and actions. We pray that God's grace will comfort and surround you in the coming days.##imported-begin##Kirt, Tammy, Megan and Kaiden Slater##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 05:16 PM



“ Peggy, Joe and Family, Want you to know we are thinking of you and we will all Miss Tom. May God Watch over you and keep you Strong.##imported-begin##Don & Mitzi Myers##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 03:58 PM



“ To all those who loved and cherished Tom:  
I will always remember talking to Tom at the counter at Richards Restaurant in Bluffton. We had some lively and interesting chats. The gang at the counter and all the waitresses made for some funny moments.  
May your memories of Tom and the good times bring comfort to you.##imported-begin##Paul Beitler##imported-end##

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January 21, 2010 at 03:35 PM