



Thomas Donal Hayes

February 28, 1945 - February 8, 2026

Thomas Hayes, 80, of Canton, Michigan

July 1945 – February 8, 2026

Thomas “Tom” Hayes, age 80, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2026, in Canton, Michigan. Born in Detroit to Donal and Betty Hayes, Tom’s life was ingrained in curiosity, care, and quiet wisdom—a man of many hobbies, heartfelt humor, and deep family devotion.

From a young age, Tom found joy in the great outdoors, spending his early years camping, fishing, and participating in Boy Scouts. He graduated from McKenzie High School in 1963, and went on to further his education at Wayne State University and Western Michigan University, reflecting a lifelong commitment to growth and knowledge.

In 1966, Tom married the love of his life, Kathleen, beginning a partnership that would span nearly six decades. Together, they raised four children: Jeff (Shelly), Pat (Rachel), Sara (Chris), and Joe (Nikki), creating a warm and lively home filled with laughter, projects, and cherished traditions. Tom was a proud grandfather to ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild, each of whom brought him immense joy.

Professionally, Tom served as a Safety and Human Resources Director for Detroit Diesel, where his leadership and dedication left a lasting impression. A man of diverse interests and quiet passions, Tom found delight in the simple pleasures of life. He was an enthusiastic gardener, a collector of model trains, an avid reader, and a skilled baker and fruit canner. He loved antiques, solving

puzzles, and riding his tractor—often with a grandchild in tow. His signature phrases, including “I’ve got two things...,” “So on and so forth,” “Half dozen or another,” and the ever-gentle “Oh dear,” will live on as fond echoes in the memories of those who knew and loved him.

Gathering Thursday February 12, 2026 at 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Mass at (St. John Neumann Catholic Church 44800 Warren Rd. Canton, MI). Memorial contributions may be made to Huron Valley Human Society PO Box 7026 Ann Arbor MI 48107-7026.

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Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

FEB 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St John Neumann
44800 Warren Rd
Canton, MI 48187-1857
(734) 455-5910

Memorial Mass

FEB 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St John Neumann
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Canton, MI 48187-1857
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