



Thomas Anthony Waling

February 11, 1920 - September 7, 2020

Waling, Thomas A., September 7, 2020 age 100 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of Mary. Loving father of Richard (Cheryl), Joseph (Sandra), Dennis, Mary Beth (John) Palmer, Ronald (Susan) and the late Thomas Jr. (Barbara). Proud grandfather of 14, and great grandfather of 17.

Visitation Wednesday, September 9th 5-8 PM and Thursday, September 10th 1-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Rd. W., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth with Scripture Service at 7:00 PM. In state Friday, September 11th 10 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48152. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mr. Waling was born in 1920 to Maltese Immigrants Oreste (aka "Jack") and Emma Waling (aka "Azzopardi" in Malta) in Hamtramck and raised in Highland Park, Michigan. (In 1913 Ford Motor Company moved the production of the Model T to the new Highland Park Assembly Plant. At this plant, they introduced the first moving assembly line).

He went to Henry Ford Trade School at the age of 13 years old and received a Mechanical Engineering degree in 1938 while working at Ford Motor Company. During his school years he served lunch to Henry Ford Sr. and played in the Henry Ford Trade School Band and was the Class President for his class of 1938. He trained and Boxed with the C.Y.O. He entered the Golden Gloves Circuit at age 16 in the 1930's also trained in his father's gym, "Highland Park AA" and was the 1938 Flyweight Champ of the Midwest. His

father was his trainer and also trained Joe Louis, "The Brown Bomber" before he went onto the national circuit.

Thomas and Mary were married during WWII on June 6, 1942 at Madonna Parish in Detroit. After their first year of marriage, Thomas was one of many that were selected for "The Manhattan Project" through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Ford Motor Company to work on the Atomic Bomb in Los Alamos New Mexico which was referred to as "The Hill". That was led and directed by Dr. (Julius) Robert Oppenheimer (Theoretical Physicist). This was an exciting time of their life living and working with world renowned scientists and military. In the meantime, Tom Jr. was born in 1943 and had the privilege of sharing this adventure. (Even though he was too young to remember). After returning from New Mexico the family grew to include Richard J. 1946, Joseph F. 1948, Dennis M. 1950, Mary E., 1952 and Ronald G. 1954.

Memorial contributions may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #528, 1426 Mill Street, P.O. Box 6319, Plymouth, MI 48170, or Knights of Columbus Council #5492, Dr. Thomas A. Dooley, 17600 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48152.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **9**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Visitation

SEP **10**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

In state

SEP **11**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Colette Catholic Church
17600 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Funeral Mass

SEP 11. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Colette Catholic Church
17600 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Anthony Waling*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Tom and sitting next to him at a dinner party after my choir concert in 2018. He was one of the nicest guys I ever met. God bless you all!*



Alex Bogue - July 29, 2021 at 04:55 AM



“ *The HFTSAA Retirees Club wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to Mary and the rest of the Waling family. Tom was a dedicated member of the HFTS Alumni Association. He was the 49th President and was elected to several terms to the Board of Directors. Tom will be missed. No matter how far we are separated physically , the spirit of brotherhood in the Trade School shines brightly. We are the last of a "Group which will never be duplicated".*
George Banda
President of the Alumni Association
John Graf
President of Retirees Club

John J. Graf - September 10, 2020 at 10:25 PM



“ *God Bless you Uncle Tom, you will be missed! God Bless Aunt Mary, and the waling family, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Love Nancy, and the gang.*

Nancy C Keely - September 09, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.*



September 09, 2020 at 02:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.*



September 09, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.*



September 09, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ *Rose Milavec sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Anthony Waling*



Rose Milavec - September 09, 2020 at 01:50 PM

KD

“ So Blessed to have had such an amazing great uncle in my life! Always great memories at the lake making sure everyone was having fun ... boatingwater skiing and swimming, not to mention the delicious food aunt Mary also seem to have for everyone! You will be missed by all! Love & Many Blessings, John & Karen DiMora

Karen DiMora - September 09, 2020 at 01:44 PM

LM

“ Love Lou and Margo Milavec purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.



Love Lou and Margo Milavec - September 09, 2020 at 12:44 PM

CM

“ I'm so sorry for your great loss. R.I.P.
Cathy Mohns

cathy Mohns - September 09, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.



September 09, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.



September 08, 2020 at 10:07 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.



September 08, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas Anthony Waling.



September 08, 2020 at 05:40 PM