



## Tommy Cockrum

April 13, 1937 - March 20, 2025

Cockrum, Tommy, March 20, 2025 age 87 of Westland. Beloved husband of Barbara. Loving father of John M. (Jen) Cockrum, Richard Joseph Cockrum, Ann Margaret (Elias-Robert) Dragon and Bill (Sherry) Cockrum. Proud grandfather of Elias Thomas (Rita) Dragon, David J. (Iva) Cockrum, Jessica M. (Mark) Krehel, Chelsea M. (Rony) Haddad, Kayla R. (Mitchell) Mullen, Jennifer A. Dragon, Audrey A. Cockrum and Joshua W. (Christina) Cockrum. Great Grandfather of Elizabeth A. Dragon, Evelyn G. Dragon, Sophia- Isabella Cockrum, Sienna-Arabella Cockrum, David-Joseph Cockrum, Gabriel Krehel, Madeleine Krehel, Samuel Krehel, Alessia M. Haddad, Eliana K. Haddad, Mila Kay Mullen and Mae Claire Mullen. Beloved son of the late Dorsey Richmond and the late Margaret Augusta (nee Papke) Cockrum. Dear brother of Robert (Elaine) Cockrum, Harold (Carol) Cockrum, the late Charles Swank, the late Raymond (Ruby) Cockrum, the late Doris (Dick) Shuman, the late Evelyn (Ed) Francis, the late Aletha (Tom) Barker and the late Ethal Doran.

Tommy married Barbara at St. Mary Catholic Church of Wayne on November 21, 1959. He was 22 years old and had already served three years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He became a Westland firefighter in 1963 and retired as a Captain in 1986. Tommy worked part time jobs as a carpenter, meat cutter, iron worker, helped build Metro Airport and helped many people build garages and homes. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, skiing, tobogganing, sailing, tennis and running on the John Glenn track after dinner on his days off. He

was very good with his hands and loved making things. He built his own sailboat and a dune buggy from the chassis of a Karmann Ghia sports car. Tommy made doll cribs and cradles for his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He always wanted to build a home of his own but ran out of time. Tommy built a garage then a family room on his house where the family has lived for 60 years. The brick layer didn't show up; so, he bricked the whole addition after he built it. He also built, took down and re-bricked the fireplace. He built the mantel, laid it and finished the basement by himself. He did the electrical work with the help of the Callahan family and Sam Hix. Tommy was super proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved talking to everyone and anyone. We surely do miss him.

Memorial gathering on Saturday, April 12th from 9:30 AM until the 10 AM Memorial Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 31530 Beechwood in Garden City. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 S. Venoy Road, Westland, MI 48186, Michigan Medicine Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 777 E. Eisenhower Pkwy Suite 650, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 or St. Thomas the Apostle Food Pantry, Checks payable to the church, on memo line please specify SVDP Food Pantry. Arrangements entrusted with Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Westland. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

APR **12**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
31530 Beechwood  
Garden City, MI 48135

*Memorial gathering 9:30 AM*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Tommy Cockrum.



April 10, 2025 at 04:03 PM



“ *Marybeth A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tommy Cockrum.*

**Marybeth A.** - April 09, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Tommy Cockrum.



April 08, 2025 at 09:18 PM



“ *Elaine & Robert Cockrum purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Tommy Cockrum.*



**Elaine & Robert Cockrum** - April 08, 2025 at 12:07 PM

BJ

“ Thank you Captain Cockrum for your wonderful service to Westland and God Bless your Family

Bobby Johnson - April 02, 2025 at 12:26 PM

TC

“ To the Cockrum Family - loved your dad and family so much and know you are all in my heart and prayers! Teri Cordes

Teri Cordes - March 26, 2025 at 09:06 PM

MR

“ Captain Tommy Cockrum was a fine example of what a firefighter should be. He was knowledgeable, caring and a great leader to name a few. I worked for him and while doing so learned so much not just about the fire department but life itself. He was one of the great ones for sure...!!!!  
Michael Reddy Sr.

michael reddy - March 26, 2025 at 12:20 PM

MR

“ Michael R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Tommy Cockrum.

Michael R. - March 26, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tommy Cockrum.

March 22, 2025 at 12:10 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tommy Cockrum.*



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March 22, 2025 at 12:10 AM



“ *Tom was a great firefighter he was always willing to help anyone who asked for help . You never had to look for him at a scene he was always right there in the middle of everything doing his job, and when the job was over he was right there helping with clean up. he was great to work with because he never quit until the job was finished. Ken Sharp*

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**Kenneth Sharp** - March 21, 2025 at 05:57 PM



“ *Tom was a member of the FD when I hired on to the PD. A great fire fighter and a goodf man. He will be missed. Condolences to his family and friends. Mike Frayer WLPD retired chief*

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**Michael Frayer** - March 21, 2025 at 01:52 PM



“ *Tommy was a great friend,a co-worker at Westland Fire Department and someone who always gave of himself to help others. He will be missed by all who knew him. Condolences from the Robinson family go out to his family, friends and all who had the pleasure who knew and respected him as a friend.*

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**John M Robinson** - March 21, 2025 at 12:49 PM