



Peter T. Gawkowski

DEC 30, 1950 - OCT 27, 2025



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Peter T. Gawkowski

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Peter Thomas Gawkowski, age 74, passed away in Norton Shores, MI, on Monday, October 27, 2025. Pete was born on December 30, 1950, to Walter and Rose (Romsek) Gawkowski in Muskegon, MI, and he graduated from Muskegon Catholic Central High School. On June 19th, 1976, he married the former Rebecca Cronheim, and the two of them spent 49 wonderful years building their family together.

Pete worked hard in every aspect of life to provide and care for his family, whether it was working for his father at Gov's Market, serving the country through the Army Reserves, or owning Subway franchises and also Gov's Training Academy. Pete served on the board of Roosevelt Park Youth Athletics, Mona Shores baseball boosters and the Lakeshore Baseball Club. In 2012, he was inducted into the Muskegon Area Sports Hall of Fame.

Enjoyment of life was visible in everything Pete did, with the bulk of his happiness coming from family, the community, and the sport of baseball. All three were resembled and demonstrated as the owner of the Muskegon Clippers summer-collegiate baseball team. With the help of his family, the city of Muskegon, and a love for the sport, Pete paved the way to successfully preserve, revive and thrive the now 109-year old "Historic" Marsh Field.

At the ballpark, there was never a day where he failed to share his joy through a contagious smile on his face and providing a welcoming atmosphere. Making people happy made Pete happy with tremendous humility, and he did just that for baseball fans near and far, college ball players from all over the world and even the opposing teams who got to experience Clipper baseball.

When away from Marsh Field, Pete prioritized supporting his grandkids and all of their endeavors. Pete was a big fan of the Tigers, Lions, Red Wings, Mona Shores High School and University of Michigan athletics. During his early years, Pete taught himself how to play the guitar, served as an altar boy and competed as a four sport athlete. He went on to play baseball at Muskegon Community College.



Obituary

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Pete will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Rebecca Gawkowski; three children: Jenny (Kyle) Buck, Daniel (Sherry) Gawkowski, and Pete (Marci) Gawkowski; four grandchildren: Grady, Claire, Cooper, and Oliver Gawkowski; two brothers, Walt (Joan) and John (Susan) Gawkowski; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Linda (Joe) Rafferty.

A FUNERAL SERVICE will be held for Pete at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at Forest Park Covenant Church, 3815 Henry St, Norton Shores, MI, 49441. VISITATION will be held from 5:00 PM -7:00 PM on Monday, November 3, 2025, at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey St, Norton Shores, MI, 49444, as well as at church an hour prior to the funeral. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Muskegon Clippers. Please sign the family's online guestbook and share memories at <https://sytsemafh.com>



Events

Peter T. Gawkowski

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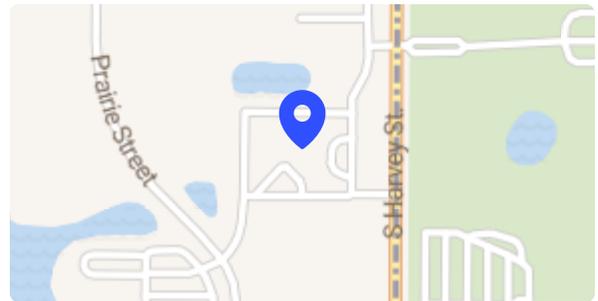
Visitation

Monday, November 3, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



Funeral Service

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

11:00 AM ET

Forest Park Covenant Church

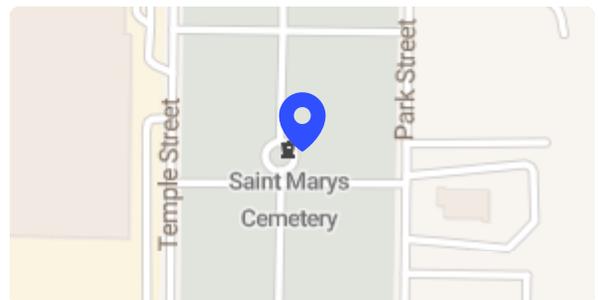
3815 Henry St., Norton Shores MI 49441



Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

1915 Park St., Muskegon MI 49441





Tribute Wall

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AW

Amy Wolff posted:

Walt, Very sorry to hear of your brother's passing. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family from Kalamazoo. Matt & Amy Wolff

November 4 at 9:22 AM

RC

Rob Cowan posted:

Please accept heartfelt condolences from the Rob Cowan family. Though we've been away from Muskegon for quite some time we still have fond memories of the Gawkowski family and especially Pete. He was the guy we all looked up to and wanted to mimic. His hard work ethic and courage to help his community was clearly evident with sports and education. He truly exemplifies the saying, "through the eyes of these God smiles, and through their good efforts God speaks."

November 2 at 11:59 AM

JF

Jay Fisher sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Gawkowski family.



October 31 at 1:13 PM

JZ

John & Judy Zarimba posted:

Pete was a big part of a wonderful family. They really did give Greater Muskegon a lot of joy. He was a big chip of his father and carried the family forward. Peace be with his family 🙏

October 31 at 12:23 PM

GL

Genia Lehan sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gawkowski family.



October 30 at 5:25 PM

GL

Genia Lehan lit a candle in honor of Peter.

My deepest condolences to Jen & the entire family. Really liked your dad. May you rest in peace Pete 🙏



October 30 at 5:20 PM



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Joe Jason posted:

Pete, Thank you for your friendship the past 12 years. My only regret is never being able to sit down with you, guitars in hand, and hack through all of our favorite songs like we talked about doing so many times. I will miss your positive outlook, your love of baseball, and the kindness you showed me over the years. The tables/chairs from your Subway location downtown which are part of the gathering space in my basement "family-cave", will have a different feel now and it will make me smile when I know that in some small way you've helped in bringing my family together for special occasions. To your family, my condolences; and to you my friend, a fond farewell until we meet again. Joe Jason

October 30 at 4:15 PM



Kevin Strong posted:

I knew Pete for most of my life as our families have been good friends since my earliest memories. His love for family, business and baseball is something I will always remember when I think of him. A great man who will be missed dearly by many. Rest in peace Pete and please say hello to Big Russ for us!

October 30 at 1:26 PM



Nancy Jones lit a candle in honor of Peter.



October 30 at 12:24 PM



Daniel Gutierrez shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Pete, along with the entire Gawkowski family welcomed me into the Muskegon Clippers organization with open arms for two summers of baseball and one summer as an intern. During those summers I watched Pete put a smile on so many faces mine included. This was every single day at Marsh Field. Before games, we'd trade stories while he prepared the field, and no matter the day or situation he always had a positive spirit. I never heard him speak poorly of anyone. Pete brought joy, kindness, and energy everywhere he went. He was a bright spot in my summers and someone I looked forward to being around every single day. I will forever be grateful for the way Pete made me feel welcomed, valued, and part of the Clipper family. Thank you Pete for everything. From the opportunity, to the kindness, and the impact you had on me and so many others. With gratitude, Danny Gutierrez



October 30 at 12:00 PM



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Alexis Lakosrice posted:

I will always remember going into Gov's market because my grandma was a cashier there and I was always greeted with a treat and smile from the Gawkowski's. Later, I played softball with Jen and we became fast friends after high school. She even introduced me to my first love, Rob. I will always remember Mr. Gawkowski's bright smile whenever I would see him out and about. I pray for the whole family because losing a loved one, especially a person as sincere, helpful, kind and fun as Mr. Gawkowski, is a heartache that will never be fixed. My deepest and sincerest condolences go out to the Gawkowski Family. Love, Alexis Lakos-Rice

October 30 at 11:54 AM



Brady Laber posted:

Pete was a first class person who ran a first class operation. The Muskegon Clippers is a model franchise in the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League. He and his family did an amazing job running the organization. Pete was the heartbeat of the franchise and would always greet you with smile and kind words. Pete will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family in this time of need. He will be sorely missed.

October 30 at 11:30 AM



Jonathan Timm shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

In November of 2022, Pete hired me to be the Muskegon Clippers play-by-play broadcaster (I had not called a baseball game in my life at that point) and was the first person to give my young voice a chance. He immediately sent a care package of Clippers merchandise to rep. It was then and there I knew how lucky I was to be apart of the Clippers family, before even meeting him.



October 30 at 11:14 AM



Greg Fleener posted:

Pete always greeted us with a smile as we made our way to our seats at Marsh Field the ball park he helped save and restore for the great city of Muskegon. Thank you Pete for sharing your love of baseball with this city for so many years!

October 30 at 10:36 AM



Tribute Wall

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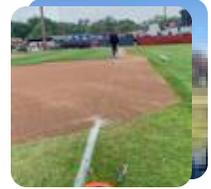
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Collin Vaughan shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Admiring and prepping the ball field he loved most! Rest easy Pete

October 30 at 10:22 AM





Media

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October 30 at 12:00 PM





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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Peter by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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