



# Thomas Ripple

March 9, 1961 - October 24, 2020

Mr. Thomas Ripple, age 59, of Grand Rapids, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on October 24, 2020, at home. He was born March 9, 1961, in Detroit, to William and Elizabeth (Olsen) Ripple. Tom was a 1979 graduate of Grand Haven High School.

Before moving to Chicago for a job with Barclay Marine, Tom attended Muskegon Community College and St. Patrick's Church. He was later transferred to Grand Rapids and continued working for Barclay for many years. He was presently employed at TerryTown R.V.

He was an avid reader, hunter, and fisherman. He also enjoyed watching the Chicago Bears and Bulls, as well as preparing delicious meals for himself and others to enjoy.

Tom is survived by three children: Janicé Dicks, Michael Ripple and Bre'El Phillips-Ripple; grandsons: Sterling and Sincere; his mother, Elizabeth (Betsy) Ripple; brothers: Mike (Lina), Dan, Tony (Tami), Bob, and John Ripple; nieces and nephews: Michelle (Kevin), Chris (fiancée Taylor), Desiré, Elizabeth, William, and Hannah; and great niece, Mia, along with special friends: Rachelle & Jerome James, James Decker, James VanOordt, Vince VanOordt, and Gale Esseny. Tom was preceded in death by his father, William (Bill) Ripple.

The center of his life was his children and grandchildren. He was a loving and devoted father and grandfather, encouraging them all to appreciate nature and all of the great outdoors. His best friends were his brothers; he spent much time in the woods and on the water with them.

A Memorial Mass will be held 11:00 AM Friday, November 6, 2020 at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Catholic Church with Father Charles Schwartz officiating. Visitation will be held 6-8 PM Thursday, November 5, 2020 at The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417 and one hour prior to the service at church. COVID 19 restrictions and masks will be required for all services. In

lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Tom may be given to [Sportsmen For Youth]<https://sportsmenforyouth.com/contact/> or [The Mary Free Bed Foundation]<https://www.maryfreebed.com/foundation/ways-to-give/>. Please sign the family's online guestbook at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com).

# Events

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**NOV**   **Visitation**                      06:00PM - 08:00PM  
**5**

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Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel  
620 Washington, Grand Haven, MI, US, 49417

**NOV**   **Visitation**                      10:00AM - 11:00AM  
**6**

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St. Patrick - St. Anthony Catholic Parish Church  
920 Fulton St, Grand Haven, MI, US, 49417

**NOV**   **Memorial Mass**                      11:00AM  
**6**

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St. Patrick - St. Anthony Catholic Parish Church  
920 Fulton St, Grand Haven, MI, US, 49417

# Comments

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“ I was fortunate to have been blessed by Tom being in my life. I confess, there were times I knew I needed to stop what I was doing when he came into my office because I knew his story would take a minute. I'm a better person for listening. I enjoyed his stories and friendship. I learned a lot about him through those stories. Number one: He loved his children above anything. Whether they knew or not, he spoke about them daily and loved them more than anything else in his life. I will never forget you Tom. Thank you for blessing my life.

**Ryan Neil Madden** - November 06, 2020 at 10:22 AM

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“ The Ripple family was wonderful neighbors odours on O'Brien Cy. Tom cared of our two boys many times. I remember him as a soft spoken guy. He was a special guy. Blessings to Betty, brothers and family. Thanks for being part of our lives.  
Bob and Jan Hendrick

**Janet R Hendrick** - November 04, 2020 at 04:42 PM

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“ Meloni Mockerman lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ripple



**Meloni Mockerman** - November 04, 2020 at 02:14 PM

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“ Marcia Glueck lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ripple



**Marcia Glueck** - November 04, 2020 at 01:37 PM

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“ Betsy and brothers,

Words can't express this loss.....

Prayers to you, all

Dennis Rouwhorst

**Dennis Rouwhorst** - November 04, 2020 at 12:10 PM

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“ Tom has been our neighbor 16 we didn't consider him a neighbor me was our family. All my family from near and far are devastated about his passing. So rest in Heaven my brother. Love The James and Scott family

**Rachell James** - November 04, 2020 at 10:01 AM

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“ Lezley Lach lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ripple



**Lezley Lach** - November 04, 2020 at 06:53 AM

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“ Tom was as genuine a person as they come. His smile and positive attitude was something I looked forward to daily. We at TerryTown knew him as “Rip” and he will be dearly missed. I will remember all the conversations we had, and how he would always call you by name. I hope you’ve found peace my friend, and I believe there are many that are better off from their time spent with you. To a great co- worker, and even greater friend, person and father, love ya Rip!  
Rest In Peace brother,  
Jared

**Jared Bechtel** - November 03, 2020 at 09:09 PM