



## Thomas John Acker

October 11, 1931 - February 19, 2021

Thomas J. Acker, 89, of Alton, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 19, 2021 with his family and at his beloved home after a long illness. He was born on October 11, 1931 in Bridgeton, New Jersey. He was the son of F. Thomas Acker and Freda (Schulz) Acker.

Tom married the former Barbara Kimbro on November 12, 1955 at St. Mary's Catholic Church by Monsignor Suddes and they have been blessed with over 65 years of marriage.

He was a graduate of St. Mary's Catholic School in Alton, Saint Bede Academy in Peru, Illinois, and Shurtleff College in Alton. He served in the U.S. Army 504th Field Artillery Battalion in Panama from 1953 to 1955.

Tom worked for over 38 years in the automotive industry, retiring in 1996 from Chrysler Corporation and previous to that at American Motors Corporation as a district sales and service manager.

He has been a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church for over 50 years and was a long-time member and past officer at the Alton Knights of Columbus Council #460.

Tom was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother-in-law, uncle, son and friend. He loved anything with a motor and took pride in the appearance of his home, especially his lawn!

Tom is survived by his wife, Barbara, daughter, Ann Calandro of Hot Springs, Arkansas, son, Thomas Acker of Alton, two granddaughters, Dr. Lauren Christiansen of St. Louis and Katherine Calandro of Hot Springs, Arkansas,

sisters-in-laws Myrna (Harold) Hart, Nancy (Fred) Haney, Sharon Kadell, Anita (Larry) Lipe, Sally Elliott, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers-in-law Nelson Steiner, Mike Kadell, Mike Elliott and sister-in-law Wanda Steiner.

We would like to thank all of the nurses with OSF St. Anthony's Hospice. In particular, nurse Jodi Cole for her caring, guidance, friendship and support over the last 19 months.

A Memorial Mass officiated by Father Steven Janoski will be held at 10am, Saturday, February 27, 2021 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey, Illinois, following COVID-19 guidelines and regulations.

Burial will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Alton, Illinois with full military honors.

Memorials may be made to St. Bede Academy. Gent Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph's Cemetery

525 East 4th Street  
Alton, IL 62002

# Previous Events

## Mass

FEB 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Ambrose Catholic Church  
820 W. Homer Adams Parkway  
Godfrey, IL 62035

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas John Acker*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Thomas John Acker*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Tom...we are so sorry for the loss of your father to you and your family... Your Dad could not have wished for a more devoted son... You are all in our prayers.  
Joe and Mary Johnston*

**Joe and Mary Johnston** - February 27, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ *Words are difficult to find and express our deepest sympathy on Tom's passing. We are so grateful that Tom was a part of our lives. He was such a kind, thoughtful man .. generous of time & spirit. We will miss him very much. SO many vivid childhood memories flood to my thoughts - mostly of Tom & his ever present movie camera with those BRIGHT Hollywood caliber Klieg lights catching every chaotic, funny "natural" moment. Tom was an extraordinary gift to all of us! We share in your sorrow and will always remember this wonderful, genuine and full-of-life man who was respected, admired & oh, so greatly loved. All of our family sends their love & prayers, Karen (Schulz) & John Wallace & family.*

**Karen Wallace** - February 26, 2021 at 02:59 PM

TH

“ Will miss Tom greatly, his great sense of humor and storytelling. We go back to when he came over from AMC and switched to Chrysler. I helped him learn Chrysler ways of business. He was a great friend and I will miss him very much. Especially my Automotive news he would save for me!

Terry Hunt - February 26, 2021 at 12:23 PM

MS

“ Mary Smith purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas John Acker.



Mary Smith - February 26, 2021 at 01:01 AM

JS

“ Many, many great memories of visiting Tom and Barb when I was a child. Tom always had a broad smile and a hearty laugh for everyone. I'll miss him but am glad that he's finally at peace. I'll be thinking of Barb, Ann, and "Little" Tom. Much love to you all!

Joseph Schulz - February 25, 2021 at 01:28 PM

JS

“ Joseph Schulz purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Thomas John Acker.



Joseph Schulz - February 25, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Thomas John Acker.*



February 25, 2021 at 11:33 AM



“ *God bless you all during this time. He is now at Peace and resting with our Heavenly Father. Bob & Tracy Streeper*

tracy streeper - February 25, 2021 at 07:02 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas John Acker.*



February 23, 2021 at 06:35 PM



“ *Barb, Tommy and Ann, Monica and I are truly sorry for your loss. Tom was a very special person and lifelong friend to my parents. He will be missed. Just know he is at peace. Our thoughts and prayers to your family at this difficult time. Condolences. Rick and Monica Crivello and employees of Bobs Lawn & Garden*

Rick Crivello - February 23, 2021 at 10:02 AM

MS

“ I won't soon forget how much Tom meant to my dad. In Dad's last days, Tom and Barbara and Tommy made a last-minute trip to Nashville. When Tom came in the doorway, Dad's face lit up. Dad couldn't call Tom's name, but he came over to Dad's chair and just clasped his hands. It was the culmination of a lifetime of shared visits and common memories and so much devotion. It was so moving as to silence the room. We should all be so lucky to have a Tom Acker at the end of our roads! Thank you, Tom, for all you've added to our family. ❤️ Mary Grace and Vince Sabol

---

**Mary Grace (Schulz) Sabol** - February 22, 2021 at 08:05 PM

AN

“ A man of and for all seasons. Kind, generous, witty, caring, sincere, loving, dedicated to family, faith and friends. A gentle giant of a man who has earned his place in God's company. My spirit and love will be with Barbara and family in sharing our loss but celebrating the blessing of having had Tom in our lives.

*Agnes Schulz Nelson*

---

**Agnes Nelson** - February 22, 2021 at 04:16 PM

ME

“ I will never forget Tom sitting at the dining room table of my parent's house in Springfield helping my sister Mary order her custom Gremlin with the Levi jeans seats! I benefitted because when she got her new car I got her old car! He worked with her trying to get her the best deal. Through the years he often gave my husband and I advice about the Chrysler mini-vans. He was very good to my parents and he and Barb always made the extra effort to visit them and be at every big family function that was held anywhere, if at all possible. I have good memories of playing with Ann and Tommy. Tom and I both loved Gabitoni's pizza in Springfield. Whenever I was back "home" from living in Chicago or the Atlanta area, if possible I wanted to get pizza. One time we went in and there was Barb and Tom- they had made a trip up just for dinner! Kind, smart, funny- genuine, and loving. I know I'll always have to catch myself at future family functions because I'll be looking for Tom.

*Marti ( Maloney) Ellwood*

---

**Marti Ellwood** - February 22, 2021 at 12:55 PM

BS

“ When Cousin Tom was around I followed like a little puppy. He was the big brother I never had, always wanted and I idolized him. There was always a twinkle in his eye whenever he played a trick on me, and there were many. But, no matter. I never wavered in my love for my “big brother” and will always have wonderful memories of him.



---

**Barbara Nave Sokolowski** - February 22, 2021 at 09:23 AM