



## Thomas Walter Gawrych

November 22, 1939 - March 30, 2026

Thomas Walter Gawrych, or “Tom” to those who knew and loved him, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2026. He was born November 22, 1939, in Wyandotte, Michigan. He was the first son to Walter and Catherine Gawrych.

He is survived by his loving wife of sixty-five years, Rae Lynn Vasquez Gawrych. They were married in 1961, at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. They met while serving in the Navy.

Loved by his two children, Guy Gawrych (and Kimberly Gawrych) and Wendy King, and his four grandchildren, Gillian and Sean King, and Mitchell and Gavin Gawrych.

Tom was a proud Navy veteran, having served for twenty-five years. He finished off his storied Naval career as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (if you know, you know). He served his country in Vietnam, and was stationed on four different Naval ships. He was stationed with his family on Guam, Spain, and Virginia Beach.

He was a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, Virginia. He was a dedicated Knight, always ready to lend a hand, and never one for the pomp or circumstance.

Tom loved being a grandfather. His grandchildren would spend their summers visiting, tinkering in his tool shed, and planning projects; he was never one to

turn down an ice cream cone with his “favorite” and only granddaughter. He was always their biggest supporter, going to concerts, races, and tournaments.

Over the years he enjoyed many hobbies. He could never stay still for long even after his retirement. His pastimes included refereeing high school football, bowling and playing softball on the Knights League, and puttering around his backyard. Throughout his retirement, he traveled all over North America, on a lighthouse tour with Rae. He was a lifelong Detroit Red Wings Hockey fan, despite their win record. He could be found listening to their games on the radio in his office.

He would start his day by sharing a coffee with his bride, often outside on their deck, listening to the sounds of nature. Every day, he would- in his words, “make a deposit,” meaning he was going to play the lottery. Tom was a man of simple pleasures, give or take a Polish Kielbasa and a Vernors Ginger Ale or two.

Please join us in remembering our sailor, Tom, on Monday, April 6, 2026, from 4PM to 6PM at Pierce’s Funeral Home in Manassas, Virginia. If possible, please wear the color Navy in his honor.

Viewing is from 4pm to 5pm, following there will be a chalice ceremony by the Knights of Columbus and ending with the praying of the rosary. A reception will be held immediately after and light hors d’oeuvres and alcoholic beverages will be served. The following day, there will be a private burial at the National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Tom was a proud supporter of his fellow veterans and America’s heroes.

# Cemetery Details

## Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road  
Triangle, VA 22172

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 6. 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Reception

APR 6. 6:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home Celebration Room  
9609 Center Street  
Manassas, VA 20110  
<https://www.piercefh.com/who-we-are/celebration-room>

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ I've lost my good friend Tom. We spent so much time together over the years. So many great memories. I will always remember the years on the softball field playing in the church league, all of the Lighthouse tours, the trip to Niagara Falls, the train trip to Foxwoods and the cruise to Alaska all enjoyed with our wives. I will also remember the years working together at the Knights of Columbus Hall. I will miss you dearly, but I will always have the memories. Many prayers for Rae and your family. May you rest in peace. With much love Tom and Jackie

Tom & Jackie Skowron - April 06 at 08:55 AM

RG

“ Richard Gawrych purchased the Yellow Sunflowers (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Thomas Walter Gawrych.



Richard Gawrych - April 03 at 01:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Walter Gawrych.



April 02 at 08:34 PM

MR

“ Spent a lot of time at the Gawrych house growing up in Virginia Beach. Tom (or as I called him then Mr Gawrych) always had a quick response to anything I said to him, then he would just have this shit eating grin on his face. My heart is so heavy since he passed. You all know I am here if you need anything. I pray that you all make it through this week as I know you are all exhausted. God bless. Love Mike Riccio

Mike Riccio - April 02 at 03:46 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Walter Gawrych.



April 02 at 03:04 AM



“ To Rae and family, Pat & I were saddened to hear of Tom's passing. There are no words to soften you pain. Just know that he is no longer in pain. He will always be in your hearts and in your thoughts. May he rest in peace.  
As a Brother 3rd & 4th Degree Knight, VIVET JESU, Tom.  
May you have Fair Seas and a following Wind. God be with you.  
Pat & Carl Baltosiewich

Carl Baltosiewich - April 01 at 03:45 PM