



Thomas William O'Brien

July 23, 1939 - November 22, 2025

Thomas William O'Brien, Sr., 86, of Huntley, passed away peacefully Saturday, November 22, 2025, with his family at his side.

He was born July 23, 1939, in Chicago, the son of James John and Margaret Mary (Donahue) O'Brien. Tom married Maria-Luiza Folwarski on December 26, 1964, in Chicago.

He taught school for the Chicago Public Schools from 1964-1969 and Franklin Park Public Schools at Hester Jr. High School, principle at East School and South School, and was a part-time Administration Assistant at South School office retiring in 1994. Tom was ordained a Permanent Deacon on May 2, 1998, at Saint Peter Cathedral in Rockford. He was a longtime member and a Deacon for 15 years at St. Mary Catholic Church in Huntley. Tom was also a 4th degree member of the Bishop Boylan Knights of Columbus Council #3880 in Crystal Lake. After Maria's death he found love again with Mary Ellen Timmerman and they married on August 18, 2012, in Cuba City, WI.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen; his children Thomas W. (Linda) O'Brien, Jr. of Marquette, MI, and Margaret Mary of Chicago; brother, Rev. James J. O'Brien; sister Margaret M. King; nieces, Colleen and Katie King.

He is preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Maria on April 15, 2008.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 30th from 1-4 pm at James A. O'Connor Funeral Home, 11603 E Main St. in Huntley and will continue on Monday, December 1, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 10307 Dundee Rd. in Huntley from 9:00 am until the 10:00 am Mass of Christian Burial. For livestream mass go to St Mary church on www.youtube.com. Burial will follow in the Crystal Lake Memorial Park in Crystal Lake.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Tom's name may be directed to the Missionary Society of St. Columban Fathers, 1902 N. Calhoun Street, St. Columbans, Nebraska, 68056 or to St. Mary Church in Huntley,

For more Information please call: (847)669-5111

Cemetery Details

Crystal Lake Memorial Park

8012 Ridgefield Rd.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 30. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

James A. O'Connor Funeral Home
11603 E. Main PO Box 74
Huntley, IL 60142
(847) 669-5111
jaoconnorfh@att.net

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Catholic Church
10307 Dundee Road
Huntley, IL 60142

Graveside Service

DEC 1. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Crystal Lake Memorial Park
8012 Ridgefield Rd.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Tribute Wall

ED

“ I am SOOOOO sorry to hear about Tom's death! What a special cousin he was to my mom and her sister Dorothy Anne and to me too! Trips to Chicago are filled with many memories... especially young Tom's gift to Tom at Christmas. The stories they would tell. I wish I had known as I would have tried to make the trip. Please know that all of you will be in my heart and prayers for years to come! Ancestry will never be the same!

Love, Ellen Anne Barresi Dies

Ellen Barresi Dies - March 13 at 02:40 PM

CK

“ May Tom rest in Peace in the Merciful Heart of Jesus. He will be remember for his inner joy, his kindness and his grateful heart. May he enjoy Eternal Life and intercede for us all.

Celine Kelly - December 31, 2025 at 12:20 AM

MR

“ Tom was the first teacher I met at Hester. He was my mentor. I am very grateful to him for his guidance. May cherished memories of him comfort you. -
Mary Ellen Reeves

Mary Ellen Reeves - November 29, 2025 at 07:59 AM

LC

“ My condolences to Tom's family. He was the principal of South/ Pietrini Elementary School in Franklin Park while I was a teacher there. I have fond memories of him. He was always kind and helpful. Loved his sense of humor.
Linda Cozzi



Linda Cozzi - November 26, 2025 at 07:13 PM

MP

“ Mary Ellen, you and Tom's family are in our thoughts and prayers.
Maria and Tim Pluemer

Maria Pluemer - November 26, 2025 at 05:57 PM

BB

“ Beth, Autumn, Jill , & Brook purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas William O'Brien.



Beth, Autumn, Jill , & Brook - November 26, 2025 at 11:27 AM

BB

“ Beth, Autumn, Jill , & Brook planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas William O'Brien.

Beth, Autumn, Jill , & Brook - November 26, 2025 at 11:27 AM