



## Thomas S. Gray, Sr.

November 10, 1947 - May 3, 2025

Thomas S. Gray Sr. passed away at St. Clare Hospital in Fenton, Missouri on May 3, 2025. He was born on November 10, 1947. His parents were L. Tena and Martha (Betty) Gray. He married Toni (Poninski) Gray and they later divorced. His son, Thomas Gray Jr., was his pride and joy.

Thomas graduated with the class of 1965 at Centralia Township High School. He went on to graduate from Kaskaskia Jr. College and attended Murray State University. In 1993, he was an inductee for Kaskaskia College Hall of Fame for exemplary service and recognition to Community College District 501.

He worked for Combine Insurance Company in his younger years. Thomas then bought Hudson-Gray Insurance Company and worked there for many years before moving on to Chaney and Karch Insurance.

Thomas loved tennis. He won a state tournament in high school. He also won a national tournament in Florida. He was an avid golfer. He enjoyed this time with his friends. He was involved in many organizations, was a member of the Centralia Elks #493, Masonic Lodge, Optimists, Centralia J.C.'s. and was a supporter of the Boy Scouts throughout his life.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, L. Tena and Martha (Betty) Gray, his maternal and paternal grandparents and an infant son.

He is survived by his son, Thomas Gray Jr., and his many friends who meant the world to him.

Funeral services for Thomas Gray, Sr. will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025 at 11:00 am at Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia with Jim Sumner officiating. A Visitation will be held at Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home on Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm and again on Friday, May 9, 2025 from 10:00 am until the time of service. Masonic Rites will be accorded at 6:00 PM on Thursday evening at the Funeral Home, with a Shriner's Walk Through to follow. The Centralia Elks Lodge #493 will also Honor Tom with a Walk Through immediately following the Shriners. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or Boy Scouts and will be accepted by the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Gray Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Funeral Home Facebook page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Visitation

MAY 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Funeral Service

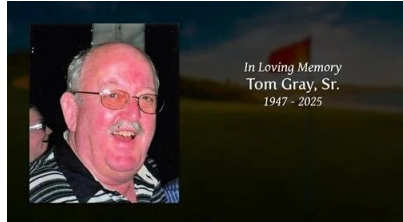
MAY 9. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas S. Gray, Sr.*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - May 08, 2025 at 10:05 AM

MS

“ *Tom you was very helpful on giving insurance to us RIP BUDDY*



Marlena Stilwell - May 17, 2025 at 07:20 PM

DK

“ *Tom was so smart, so clever, so funny and so very kind to everyone. Centralia will not be the same without him. We will miss him terribly. Deb and Dave*

David Knox - May 09, 2025 at 06:25 PM

EF

“ Eric, Seline and Family purchased the Serene Re treat for the family of Thomas S. Gray, Sr..



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**Eric, Seline and Family** - May 08, 2025 at 01:31 PM

EF

“ Eric, Seline and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas S. Gray, Sr..

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**Eric, Seline and Family** - May 08, 2025 at 01:31 PM

LF

“ Love, Ronnie, Lisa and Sheilah Forth purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas S. Gray, Sr..



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**Love, Ronnie, Lisa and Sheilah Forth** - May 08, 2025 at 10:57 AM

SH

“ Tom was a special friend going back to kindergarten when our mothers let us walk together as long as we held hands when crossing the street! We often visited when we ran into each other at breakfast on Saturdays and we will miss him at our class reunion in June. Thoughts with all who cared for him. Rest in peace, Tom.  
Susan

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**Susan Pugh Howe** - May 06, 2025 at 09:46 AM

PB

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Tom. I enjoyed his humor. Spent many a day with ‘the group’ at the Caddyshack and the American Legion. Always a good time. And informative! 😊  
Prayers for all. 🙏💔😊

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**Peggy Myers Beal** - May 05, 2025 at 07:24 PM

SB

“ Tom and I go back to kindergarten! He was so much more than my classmate, he was my friend and a friend to many!!! Tom will be missed by all f us at our 60th reunion June 6 & 7. His wonderful smile and great laugh will be with me forever!!!! ❤️

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**Sandy (Kirkland) Bone** - May 05, 2025 at 06:51 PM

TD

“ Tom truly believed to treat people, the way you expect to be treated. He was always fun to be around and a wealth of knowledge. He will be dearly missed at our office's. I will miss him as a colleague and mostly as a true friend. Rest in Peace my friend.

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**Todd Dobbs** - May 05, 2025 at 06:47 PM

LA

“ In our later years Tom became a very friend of mine. Each time I traveled back to Illinois we would get together for golf and a cocktail or two. I will truly miss you at our class reunion in just a little over 4 weeks. Rest in peace buddy. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

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**Lorren Abernathy** - May 05, 2025 at 04:44 PM