



Thomas Robert Rice

September 7, 1941 - April 8, 2021

Thomas R Rice, 79, passed away on April 8, 2021. Born in Canton on September 7, 1941, to Joseph and Dorothy Rice. A 1960 graduate of Glenwood High School, Tom helped his father with his landscaping business early in his career path. Realizing his natural born talent at sales, he then worked at Pioneer Foods and Leatherman Seed Company eventually acquiring his father's business. His mother told him he would make his living with his hands which he did quite successfully evolving and growing the business that would become Rice's Nursery and Landscaping operating today as Rice's Landscapes Redefined under the leadership of his sons. Tom significantly contributed to the greening of Stark County and surroundings through the countless trees he planted (as he was fond of pointing out) and beautifully designed landscapes.

Tom was known for his kindness and generosity helping so many individuals and organizations in quiet ways. He never met a stranger, made friends quickly, would listen intently knowing your life history within the first five minutes of conversation and caring about how you were doing. His bigger than life character was felt in his presence of loving, joking and his teasing. He loved his family and was so proud of his children and grandchildren. In his later years, he spent time with his family at their farm in the summers and his winters at his home in Bonita Springs, FL making many memories and stories that will endure and be his legacy. He will be fondly remembered by his family,

many friends, employees and customers.

Tom is survived by his wife of 23 years, Nancy (Hardgrove), his children Bryan (Tracy) Rice, Kevin (Chrissy) Rice of North Canton and Aimee (Brian) Newland of Medina and former wife, Ruth Rice, grandchildren Lauryn, Emily, JT, Tommy and Jane, brother James (Judy) Rice of Bonita Springs and sister Carol (Chris) Burt of Canton and nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Timken Family Cancer Center online at AultmanFoundation.org or the Aultman Foundation, 2600 Sixth St SW, Canton OH 44710.

Condolences may be made to Shikanyfuneralhome.com of Bonita Springs, FL.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Robert Rice*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *We are so saddened to hear of Tom's passing. He was a dear friend, and the Rice family has been a part of our life for many years. We especially remember Tom helping us with our GlenOak Cross Country Parent Group, and the many things he did to help it be successful. Ruth, and Kevin, Bryan, Aimee, and families, you have our deepest sympathy. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers..*

Ric and Bonnie Thompson

Ric and Bonnie Thompson - April 20, 2021 at 12:15 PM



“ *You all have our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts & prayers are with you. Tom will be greatly missed.*

Mike & Thea Lehotay

Mike& Thea Lehotay - April 18, 2021 at 11:09 AM



“ *We were blessed to have Tom as a next door neighbor for several years. We remember him as full of life and so outgoing. Never met a stranger. Our deepest sympathy to his family. He will be greatly missed.*

Jim & Cathy Robinson

catherine Robinson - April 13, 2021 at 10:55 AM

JC

“ To all of the Rice family, We were so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. We have been fortunate to be friends with so many of you over the last 50 years and what a great family you are. Tom always set the bar for hard work and making things grow in so many ways. He also was the one you could count on to keep things fun. So many memories come flooding back even as we write this. He will be missed by many people. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Jim and Cincy Camp

Jim and Cincy Camp - April 12, 2021 at 04:04 PM

MB

“ How blessed and fortunate our family is to have been friends with this great man. We loved when Tom would sit at counter at Beyeslys and chat with us... usually laughing and making our day.. Tom and Nancy have truly been dear to our entire family ❤️ You will be missed

Sending our love and sincere condolences

Bill and Chris Maronitis

Maria Beyes and Beyeslys's Staff

Maria Beyes - April 12, 2021 at 10:37 AM

CN

“ We were so saddened to hear of Tom's passing! Sending our sincerest condolences and prayers to your family. The Nagy family (Bill, Marilyn, Kirk, Mike, Chris and families)

charissa nagy - April 12, 2021 at 09:51 AM

JZ

“ We’re so sorry to hear of Tom’s passing. The Rice family was always a part of our family growing up. Tom was always so good to our Dad. Nancy, Bryan, Kevin and Aimee; please know all of you are in our thoughts and prayers.
The Zeiger Family.

Jeff Zeiger - April 11, 2021 at 09:26 PM

SS

“ May the Lord comfort you during this sorrowful time. Many fond memories of time spent with Tom.

Sheriff and Sandy Swanson - April 11, 2021 at 07:52 PM

RS

“ Carol and Ray Shanabruch send our condolences to the Tom Rice family. Tom, Kevin and Brian were business associates but more importantly friends. I always enjoyed his quick wit. He had a special way to make you laugh at him or yourself.

May God bless his family at this difficult time.

Ray and Carol

ray shanabruch - April 11, 2021 at 07:12 PM

SL

“ To Jim and the entire family my fond memories of Jim and Tom while at Plain Center! Tom was always a mature young man and a friend of my brother Larry!

Stewart levine, Houston, Texas

Stewart Levine - April 11, 2021 at 05:46 PM

PK

“ To Nancy and family. So sorry for your loss. Blessings and God Bless

Pat Koller - April 11, 2021 at 01:26 PM

DD

“ Sorry to learn of Tom's passing and condolences to Bryan, Kevin and the rest of the Rice Family. Always enjoyed speaking with Tom at the Farm and discussing his latest tractor or other restoration.

Darryl and Sylvia Dillenback

Darryl Dillenback - April 11, 2021 at 10:46 AM