



## Thomas S. Finkelmeier

December 20, 1946 - May 23, 2021

Thomas S. Finkelmeier, 74, passed away on May 23, 2021 after a prolonged illness. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on December 20, 1946 to the late Dr. Louis J. and Marjorie (Thompson) Finkelmeier. The family moved to Celina, Ohio in 1955 and that is where he grew up with his siblings Louis J. (Carole) Finkelmeier Jr., James D. (Maureen) Finkelmeier, Betty A. Finkelmeier, William R. (Terri) Finkelmeier and Mary E. (Dan) Havener, who all survive. Tom attended Celina High School, then obtained a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Cincinnati in 1968. He considered attending law school like his older brother Lou, but was drafted to serve in the United States Army and completed a one-year tour in Vietnam. Tom was extremely proud to serve his country, and was decorated for heroism in combat. While in the Army he married his long-time sweetheart Diana K. Youngs on July 26, 1969 while on liberty in Hawaii, and she survives. After Vietnam, he intended to spend a month relaxing, but his father Dr. Lou said “W-K with OR in the middle. You are scheduled to start adjuster training school at Celina Insurance on Monday morning.” In retrospect, Tom often said that was the best thing he could have done to put his war experience behind him. He had good reason to work. As the years passed along came Thomas S. (Sarah) Finkelmeier Jr., Jodi L. (Jeff) Muller and Kristi L. (Jody) Papst. Tom was a passionate family man who was known to say many times that his family was everything to him. Seeking more opportunity to provide for his young family, he moved to Wapakoneta, Ohio in 1977 to join an insurance agency. This was where his talents were put to best

use. Tom spent nearly 40 years providing service to others as an independent insurance agent at the Finkelmeier Insurance Agency in Wapakoneta. His desire for professional excellence knew no equal. That coupled with his winning personality and integrity made him successful. A lifelong baseball card collector, Tom realized the need for an insurance product for sports memorabilia collectors. In the early 1980's he wrote the original sports memorabilia insurance policy. Today Finkelmeier Insurance is the largest agency providing insurance to collectors and dealers of memorabilia of all types, nationwide. Over the years many people were surprised to learn that such a gregarious and warm man was never happy in public settings, preferring the company of his family and a few close friends. He was born to be a Grandpa; Papa deeply loved his eight grandchildren: Josephine J. Muller, Gabriele C. Muller, Gage L. Papst, Wyatt T. Papst, Thomas S. Finkelmeier III, Cameron A. Finkelmeier, Alexandria A. Finkelmeier and little Henry J. Finkelmeier. Tom was greatly loved and will be missed dearly by his large family and many friends. Visitors may call at the Eley Funeral Home on Thursday, June 3rd from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM, Friday, June 4th at First United Methodist Church in Wapakoneta, with interment at Greenlawn Cemetery immediately after. The family will also receive visitors one hour prior to the service at the church. Donations may be made in Tom's honor to the First United Methodist Church in Wapakoneta, or to the Lewy Body Dementia Association at [www.lbda.org/donate](http://www.lbda.org/donate)

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road  
Wapakoneta, OH

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 3. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory  
1102 Lincoln Ave.  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com>

## Service

JUN 4. 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
Glynwood Road  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.



June 03, 2021 at 08:32 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.



June 03, 2021 at 11:06 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.



June 01, 2021 at 11:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.



June 01, 2021 at 08:43 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.*



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June 01, 2021 at 07:44 AM



“ *Diana,  
Our heartfelt condolences are with you and your family during this time of sorrow. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*David & Kathy (Donovan) Mowery*

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**David Mowery** - May 29, 2021 at 02:21 PM



“ *Diana,  
So sorry to hear about the loss of Tom. You are in my prayers.  
Janet Swisher*

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**Janet R Swisher** - May 29, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss Diana. May he rest in peace*

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**SANDRA BRAUN** - May 27, 2021 at 09:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.*



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May 26, 2021 at 10:12 PM



“ *Mrs. Fields Large Combo Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.*



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May 26, 2021 at 09:33 PM



“ *Dianna,  
My sympathies to you and your family.  
Jerry Monroe*

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**jerry Monroe** - May 26, 2021 at 11:27 AM

TG

“ Tom and his roommate, Don Pugne, lived in the apartment complex where I lived and where I met my wife, Gee. We became friends immediately and enjoyed each other from then until now. Tom was a Groomsman in my wedding and a phone call away when i needed a laugh. I was in his office when the phone rang and, after a short conversation about baseball cards, he hung-up the phone and said (matter-of-factly), "That was Ted Williams." When I finally realized that it really was Ted Williams I was excited just being in the room during the conversation but Tom was unfazed. And that was Tom; comfortable talking to a guy off of the riverbank from Ludlow, KY, or talking to Ted Williams about thousands of dollars worth of collectibles.

I put a quote on Diana's Facebook page that needs to be here as well: "The life given us, by nature is short; but the memory of a well-spent life is eternal." Tom's life will be remembered by many. Tom Gaither.

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**Thomas Gaither** - May 26, 2021 at 12:09 AM

DS

“ a lifelong friend, and classmate. We shared all of the joys and trials of growing up in the 60's. Tom's friendship and loyalty were treasured by all who knew him, especially Dianne and I.  
Ned & Dianne Sielschott

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**Dianne Sielschott** - May 25, 2021 at 09:59 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas S. Finkelmeier.



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May 25, 2021 at 03:30 PM