



Thomas L. Hardekopf

November 16, 1946 - May 30, 2021

Thomas Hardekopf, 74 of Kearney passed away Sunday, May 30, 2021 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 11, 2021 at Kearney First United Methodist Church with Pastor Melody Adams officiating. The service will also be live streamed through the church website at www.kearneyfirstumc.org.

Memorials are suggested to Habitat for Humanity. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Tom was born on November 16th, 1946 to William O. and Mildred Kelly Hardekopf. He grew up playing baseball and after graduation at Grand Island Senior High in 1965, was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds baseball team and reported to Tampa, Florida for Spring training. His baseball career was short lived and he returned to Grand Island and married Cynthia Dokken in 1966. They moved to Kearney where he worked for Meadow Gold dairy as a wholesale route driver and later owned TLH Construction, building homes and remodeling: tilework was his specialty. He was a Senior League baseball coach for the Firemen, and later co-coached the Eagles in Little League. He worked with Habitat for Humanity for many years, developing many friendships. He formerly played tennis and loved golf. He liked to target shoot and slingshot with his grandsons, and watching robotics, soccer, and baseball.

He loved their cabin in the Snowy Range, where many memories were made with his children and grandsons.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Cindy of Kearney; son, Tyler and wife, Ellishequea of Columbus, OH and their sons, Aidan and Avery; daughter, Rebecca and husband, Matthew Kauk of Kearney and their sons, Ben and Myles; his beloved dog, Ruby; a sister; and seven nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents; and sister, Carol Sems.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas L. Hardekopf*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *We were sorry to read of Tom's passing. Eileen and I send our sympathies to Cindy and family. I was a high school classmate of Tom and Cindy's and enjoying seeing them at class reunions over the years. I played legion baseball with Tom in 1964 and 1965, and remember playing Y basketball on a 7th grade team with Tom. He was friendly and outgoing and unpretentious. We will miss seeing him at future reunions..*

Dick (and Eileen) Vautravers

Dick Vautravers - June 11, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Hardekopf.*



June 10, 2021 at 09:02 AM

MR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Micheal Rafferty - June 08, 2021 at 09:36 AM

MR

“ My good friend Tom was always ready to help and I enjoyed the years we had together. The Hardekopf family has been friends of our family for over 40 years. We will miss our Friday evenings together, sharing stories of our daughter's growing up as friends and relaying memories from recent and past vacations and trips. I will miss the times we enjoyed playing golf and just sharing stories. Thank you Tom.



Micheal Rafferty - June 08, 2021 at 07:16 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Hardekopf.



June 07, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Hardekopf.*



June 05, 2021 at 05:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Hardekopf.*



June 04, 2021 at 10:23 PM



“ *Have so many good memories from the years Tom and Galynn worked together. Tom was quick to smile and laugh. A good quality to have! He was a wonderful husband and father and was so proud of his kids. Thinking of you during this difficult time and sending a big hug!*

Galynn and Carolyn Dexter

Carolyn Dexter - June 04, 2021 at 06:10 AM

DH

“ I am assuming Tom is the person I remember from my baseball days in 1964 and 65. I played for Hastings but I remember Tom as the hardest payer on the G.I. legion team for me to get out. He always came up with the hit off me to help beat us in districts. I am sorry for your loss and wish I had known he lived in Kearney. My wife and I live in the country near Kearney and I would have liked to have visited with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Darwin Hinrichs

Darwin Hinrichs - June 03, 2021 at 11:40 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kent Schroeder - June 03, 2021 at 06:12 PM

TN

“ *Thomas James Nordhues lit a candle in memory of Thomas L. Hardekopf*



Thomas James Nordhues - June 03, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Thomas L. Hardekopf.* ”



June 02, 2021 at 10:35 PM