

PALMYRA

Thomas L. Reynolds Jr.

Jan. 13, 1936 – April 13, 2013

Thomas L. Reynolds Jr., 77, of Palmyra, went home to the Lord on April 13, 2013, after a battle with cancer, with his family at his side at his home.



Tom was born in Milwaukee on

Jan. 13, 1936, the son of the late Thomas L. and Helen (Means) Reynolds. He graduated from Maysville, Mo., High School in 1954. Tom married his high school sweetheart, Wava Ellen "Polly" Owen, on Jan. 29, 1955, in Fairport, Mo. In 1957, Tom and Polly moved to Wisconsin, where Tom completed a Foundry Apprentice program. He was the cupola manager in the Foundry Industry for 30 years. He and his son-in-law started Hoffman-Reynolds Carpentry business. Tom suffered a severe brain aneurysm in 1989. He had two brain surgeries that year. It was during his recuperation from those surgeries that he rediscovered his love for woodworking. Seeing the lighted cross on St. Matthew's steeple each night, he felt that God was sending him a message to make crosses and share with others. He spent many hours on the scroll saw making beautiful wooden crosses that have been sent around the world by family, friends and missionary workers. Tom has been featured in various papers with his woodworking projects. Tom's other passion was coaching his four children in high school track and field during the 1970s and early '80s. His specialty was coaching the pole vault. He loved watching his children and now grandchildren in all of the various sports. Many trips were made to Ohio for sporting events. He is affectionately known as the "Pole Vault Patriarch" to his grandchildren's track coaches. Tom was active in the Palmyra United Methodist Church being involved with the annual turkey dinner and craft sale, as well as the UMC Men's Club. The UMW recently presented him a "Special Mission Recognition" Pin for his many donations of crosses and other specialty items for mission

events. The church is known as "The Church of the Crosses." Tom was named "The Cross Man." He was a loving husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa. He was happiest when surrounded by his family. Dad (Papa) loved to play jokes, always had a "story" and had some funny sayings that would crack you up.

He will be dearly missed by his wife of 58 years, Polly; four children, Dennis (Kathleen) of West Chester, Ohio, Dan (Caren) and Dave (Kari) of Whitewater and Diana (Ken) Hoffman of Fort Atkinson; nine grandchildren, Erik (Anna) of Beaverton, Ore., Mitchell (Teresa) of Avon, Ohio, and Jonathon Reynolds of West Chester, Ohio, Katie (Ryan) Oezer of Whitewater and Tyler (Sarah) Reynolds of Lisle, Ill., Sarah, Kailey and Miranda Reynolds of Whitewater, and Kyle Hoffman of Fort Atkinson; four great-grandchildren, Brooke, Mara, Lawson and Espyn; brother-in-law, Ken Ausmus of Cameron, Mo.; sister-in-law, Twila Owen of Maysville, Mo.; and a host of relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Barbara Ausmus; brothers-in-law, Herschel Owen and Willis Ginn; and sister-in-law, Florence Ginn.

Visitation will be held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at the Palmyra United Methodist Church, 122 N. Fifth St., Palmyra. Visitation continues from 10:30 a.m. until the noon funeral service Monday, April 22, at the church, with Rev. Karen Klatt officiating. Burial will be at Hillside Cemetery in Palmyra.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to the Palmyra United Methodist Church, ProHealth Home Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

The family would like to thank Dr. William Lutz and staff at Moorland Medical Center for the wonderful care they have given Tom over the past 24 years and to ProHealth Home Hospice for making his final weeks comfortable and peaceful.

Haase-Lockwood & Associates Funeral Homes and Crematory of Palmyra is assisting the family, 495-2127. For the online guest registry, please go to www.haaselockwoodfhs.com.