



Thomas William Hanley III

September 8, 1944 - July 14, 2020

Thomas William Hanley III, age 75, passed away on July 14, 2020.

Born in Akron, he graduated from Hoban High School and Kent State University, and was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Thomas retired from the Akron Police Department as a Lieutenant after 35 years of service. He was a member of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church for 48 years where he served as a longtime member of the Christian Education Committee. Thomas also volunteered with the Humane Society of Summit County. His hobbies included traveling, gardening, reading (especially history books) and feeding his backyard birds and squirrels.

Preceded in death by his brothers, Dennis, Robert and Richard, he is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Mary; daughter, Rachel Hanley; brother, Gary (Marjorie) Hanley; sister, Susan (Mike) Tsavaris; loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and –nephews; and brother-in-law, Chris Mendell.

Family and friends will be received Sunday, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Hopkins Lawver Funeral Home, 547 Canton Road (Route 91), Akron (Ellet), Ohio 44312, where Funeral service will immediately follow at 5 p.m. with Pastor Brian Nutt officiating. A livestream of the service will be available to view on the Hopkins Lawver Facebook page. Burial will take place Monday at 2:30 p.m. at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Seville. The family suggests memorials to The Humane Society of Summit County, 7996 Darrow Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087; or Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, 2406 Ardwell Avenue, Akron, OH 44312.

(Hopkins Lawver, AKRON, 330-733-6271)

www.hopkinslawver.com

Cemetery

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery

10175 Rawiga Road
Seville, OH, 44273

Events

JUL 19 **Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

Hopkins Lawver Funeral Home - Ellet
547 Canton Road, Akron, OH, US, 44312

JUL 19 **Funeral Service** 05:00PM

Hopkins Lawver Funeral Home - Ellet
547 Canton Road, Akron, OH, US, 44312

JUL 20 **Burial with Military Honors** 02:30PM

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery
10175 Rawiga Road, Seville, OH, US,
44273

Comments



“ During my 34 year career on APD, I worked for/with Tom three times, for a total of about 10 years. He was my sergeant in the Detective Bureau's Burglary Unit; my lieutenant in the Patrol Bureau on the midnight shift; and again was my lieutenant in the Traffic Bureau, where we both finished out our careers.

In the Detective Bureau he was as much a mentor to me, as he was a supervisor. He had a lot of knowledge, experience and managed his unit very well and was, above all else, an exceptional leader. We worked many cases together and his direction as a supervisor to those of us in his unit was directly responsible for our unit having a high per centage rate of solving crimes.

Later, in the Patrol Bureau, he was our assistant shift commander. Tom was an innovator when he started directed drug patrols on the midnight patrol shift. The excellent results were noted by the Chief and the department started a specialized Street Drug Unit, with Tom as the commander. He then went on to command the entire Narcotics Bureau.

I was serving in the Traffic Bureau when Tom replaced the retiring Traffic Bureau commander in 2001. Tom was responsible for getting all of us more specialized training in technical traffic accident investigation, crash reconstruction, traffic enforcement, and commercial vehicle enforcement. He also revived our involvement with the Operation Lifesaver railroad crossing safety and enforcement program, with excellent results.

During his time in the Traffic Bureau, Tom also developed a relationship with the Ohio State Patrol, which provided further training and he set up several joint enforcement programs with them. It was a privilege to work for him again in these assignments.

Tom Hanley was the best supervisor that I have ever worked for and an exceptional leader. I have the utmost professional and personal respect for him. He was a smart man and Tom deserved any recognition that came his way. I must add that I also enjoyed his sense of humor, dry wit, and one liners. He was a good story teller and it was always good to visit with him at lunch after we retired and reminisce about the old days. So many stories over the years!

To Mary, Rachel and the rest of Tom's family and friends, I offer my deepest condolences. Some day soon, when you think of Tom, the pain of loss will subside and your hearts will smile again and you will be able to enjoy the memories and all he meant to each of you.

Tom, may you rest in peace, you certainly deserve it.

Rick McPherson



“ Dear Mary, Rachel, Susan, Gary and the rest of the family,
I am so, so sorry. My wonderful first cousin will have to suffer no more. He is in Paradise now where he will have no more pain and suffering. He will be rewarded for being such an excellent husband, father and police officer. In the Atlanta area where I am from Tom always loved the Red Dogs who used to try to keep the drugs under control in my city. In fact, in the 80s he and his boss came to a police convention and the Red Dogs took the two of them out on a "drug mission" and Tom was so thrilled to be included in this.
Just stop and think of the thousands of things he must have done to help people over the span of his career.
My stomach is happy to say that it benefitted from the delicious tomatoes and corn he grew and his super duper chicken recipe. Yummy!
Tom was a great tour guide when we would come to visit. And I'd love all the stories he would tell of his travels and new wine discoveries.
Tom, you most certainly will be missed for all the things I wrote above and many more things I failed to include.
Mary, Rachel, Susan, Gary and all other family members you are in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time for all of us.
God bless you all.
Love, Rosemary Dashiell-Young
Roswell, Ga 25 miles north of Atlanta

Rosemary Dashiell-Young - July 19 at 04:41 PM



“ Dear Mary and Rachel, we'd like to express our deepest sympathy to the loss of your husband and father. Tom was a great person that we were happy to call our friend. The times we spent together were fun and enlightening (especially Tom's zest for history). I remember having dinner at the Ido Bar and Grille with Tim Anderson and Tom one evening, and capping off the night at the Cigar Lodge on S. Main St. and continuing our history discussions over fine cigars and drink. Tom will be greatly missed. Due to the covid-19 virus and our being in the high risk group, sadly we will not be able to attend Tom's services. Please know that you both are in our hearts and prayers.

Donny and Lana Bascetta

Guy Bascetta - July 19 at 01:51 PM



“ Mary, all our sympathy to you and the rest of your family. Tom was a wonderful man and a very well thought of police officer. He will be sadly missed. Love and caring from Jim and Jill Garver Nelson

Jill Nelson - July 18 at 11:26 AM



“ Lieutenant Thomas Hanley
End of Watch 7-14-2020
(Half of the reason I entered Law Enforcement)
You will be missed, Cousin.



Andy - July 17 at 06:36 PM



“ Lieutenant Hanley was my supervisor on the Akron Police Department. He ran the Street Drug Enforcement Unit of which I was a member. My relationship with Tom goes way back to when he was my father's, Stan Oldaker, partner in the Detective Bureau. I knew him when I was a teenager and then worked for him after I became an Akron Police Officer. Tom was one of the BEST supervisors I ever worked for. He was always cracking jokes and making us laugh, but he was also a great leader and made sure the assignment at hand was accomplished.
After he retired, I saw him on and off at the Our Lady of the Elms events, where I worked an extra job. He always stopped to chat, tell me Cop stories of my Dad and His time together or to see how I was. He was a good man and I call him my friend and a mentor. My condolences to Mary, his daughter and all those who knew him and loved him. He will be missed. God Speed LT!!!

Rick Oldaker - July 16 at 08:02 PM



“ Although Tom and I came on together we only worked together for a short time when the Street Drug Unit was formed. It was a dream job with a great leader. Tom showed us on the Unit what could be done with a pound of baloney and a quart of milk. Prayers and best wishes for his wife and family.

Mike Madden - July 17 at 12:52 PM