



Thomas J. O'Dell Sr.

JUN 10, 1944 - JAN 26, 2021



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Thomas J. O'Dell Sr.

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Thomas J. O'Dell Sr, 76 of Decatur, IL passed away January 26, 2021 in Hot Springs Village, AR.

Thomas was born June 10, 1944 in Decatur, IL, the son of Tilmon and Lucille (DeVore) O'Dell. He married Linda Neff on December 19, 1970. Together, they enjoyed 50 years of marriage.

Thomas was an industrial engineer serving within ten different states.

Surviving are his wife, Linda; children, Monica Shuler of Wisconsin, Thomas O'Dell Jr of Lancaster, PA, Derek O'Dell (Brianna) of Pittsburg, PA, Patrick O'Dell (Taylor) of Decatur, IL; brother, Merlin O'Dell (Betty) of Winchester, VA; sister, Patsy Hamilton of Peoria, IL; seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Preceding in death are his parents, one sister and one grandchild.

Funeral services will be 11:00 AM Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at Moran and Goebel Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 10 – 11 AM Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Graceland Cemetery.

Memorials: Kidney Transplant Program of Springfield, IL.

Condolences may be left to Thomas's family at www.moranandgoebel.com.

Video streaming will be available at www.funeralvue.com/login/event#47062.






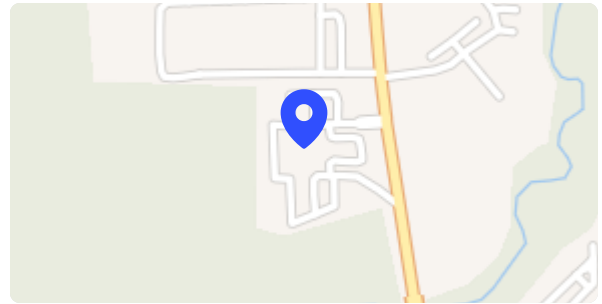
Events

Thomas J. O'Dell Sr.




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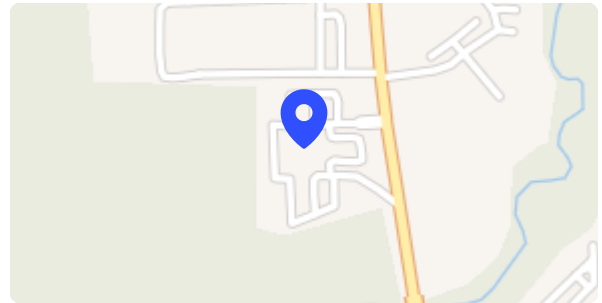
Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, February 3, 2021
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
-  **Moran & Goebel Funeral Home**
2801 North Monroe Street, Decatur IL 62526




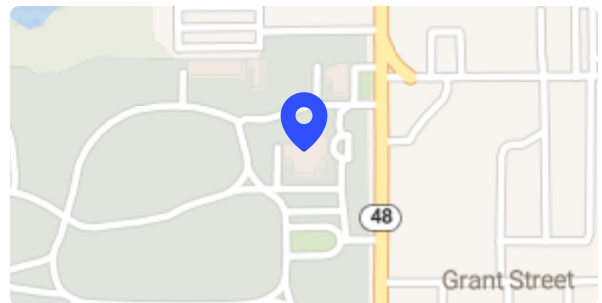
Funeral Service

-  **Wednesday**, February 3, 2021
-  11:00 AM CT
-  **Moran & Goebel Funeral Home**
2801 North Monroe Street, Decatur IL 62526



Cemetery Details

-  **Graceland Cemetery**
2091 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur IL 62526





Tribute Wall

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SK

Sheilah Kotulski posted:

Uncle Tom had a characteristic way of making you feel like you were the most important person in the room. Even when the room was filled with others who were individually addressed by Uncle Tom for an intentional conversation. His characteristic smile, twinkle in his eye and what at times sounded like a southern drawl, resembled that of his father and my grandfather, Tilmon O'Dell, and my Dad, Merlin O'Dell. I remember my Uncle Tom would join us on summer vacations and separate extended visits to our home in Virginia. Tom was a fun uncle to have around however on occasion I remember my dad was not amused at what he was teaching my sister Bonnie and I. Years later on one winter visit to Decatur, my sister Bonnie and I had a snowball fight with Uncle Tom that nearly did me in. I sat in the snow crying and he came over, helped me up, apologized and said "I thought you were more mature or tougher than that." And "I forgot what a girl you are!" Later he would occasionally tease me about that incident with a characteristic twinkle, smile and wink. And Uncle Tom would not have encouraged me to go out for sports after watching me flounder around on loose ice skates at the Fairview Park Ice Skating Rink, however I appreciated the fact that he wanted to take Bonnie and I out for a different fun activity. Uncle Tom loved his family, nature and extending warm hospitality in the beautiful homes that he and Aunt Linda shared across the miles in Ohio (where his boys had quite a fun basement playground), Virginia (where his house was up on a wooded hill with beautiful tall pines), Pennsylvania (where there were many treasures and hand made quilts and other crafts that were displayed) and Illinois (where I will never forget the huge blazing fireplace and the beautiful red cardinals flying around on the snow covered hills). The family dinners that we shared were always delicious and filling, and the conversation was full of reminiscing and catching up on one another's lives. We will all miss Uncle Tom, and I know that is especially true for my dad, Merlin. They would speak often on the phone and I know that Tom was my Dad's best friend. We are truly thankful that Uncle Tom joins the "Great Cloud of Witnesses" that include my grandmother, grandfather, his granddaughter and his sister (Madonna) whom he and many of the rest of our family never knew but always heard so much about. Give them all heavenly air hugs for us, Tom! Love, Blessings and Prayers to Linda, Tom Jr., Monica, Derrick, Patrick, Sheilah (O'Dell) Kotulski

February 4 at 3:44 PM

JD

John O'dell posted:

Uncle Tom was the first family member I recalled as a boy that went to college and graduated as an Industrial Engineer. His example helped forge my own future as an Industrial Engineer. I remember him telling me a long time ago that if he could do it I could also. Thank you Uncle Tom.

February 3 at 7:42 AM



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Timothy Dorsey posted:

I recall one time Tom was visiting and us kids were running around the outside of the house and he stopped me and said "you have strong ankles, you should be in sports ". I was so encouraged that I took up track and field. He was very encouraging and I was blessed by him on numerous occasions.

February 2 at 11:17 AM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the O'Dell family.



February 2 at 11:01 AM



Anonymous sent a Glorious Grace Bouquet to the O'Dell family.



February 2 at 7:17 AM



Anonymous sent a Crystal Cross Bouquet to the O'Dell family.



February 2 at 7:08 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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