



Thomas Lee Baker

October 23, 1931 - December 19, 2021

Thomas Lee Baker, 90, of Huntington, passed away at 8:52 am Sunday, December 19, 2021, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne, IN.

Thomas was born on October 23, 1931, in Lagro, IN, the son of Frank Baker and Janie (Moore) Baker. He graduated from Lagro High School with the class of 1951. He was drafted into the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War. He married the love of his life, Bonnie L. Smuts on August 21, 1954, in Huntington. They shared 64 years of marriage before she preceded him in death on June 21, 2019. He retired from Marion Dana Corporation after 35 years of service. He was a member of the United Steel Workers Chapter 4-1 and a 22-year member at the American Legion Post 248. Thomas was an outstanding baseball pitcher and had the opportunity to attend tryouts for the major leagues. He enjoyed his weekly visits with some of his classmates, watching tractor auctions, golf tournaments, and western on TV. He liked being on the farm and spent many hours on the lawn mower which earned him the nickname "Lawn Ranger". He loved the game of golf and cheering on the Indiana Hoosiers men's basketball team.

Survivors include his daughters, Melinda L. Baker of Huntington, IN, Melissa Baker of Huntington, IN; sons, Mike France of Ft. Wayne, Terry France of Ormond Beach, FL; grandchildren, Todd (Sara) France, Traci (John Paul) Rivera, Matt France, Stephanie Andrews, Maria Martin, Tony Baker, Tosha

Rumple; and seventeen great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie L. Baker, father, Frank Baker, mother, Janie Baker, brothers, Orville Bitzel, Clarence "Jack" Bitzel, Truman Baker, Paul Baker, Verlin Baker, and son, Tom Baker.

Celebration of Life will be 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, 46750. Burial will be in Andrews Riverside Cemetery in Andrews at a later date.

Preferred memorials to the Helping Paws or Huntington County Humane Society, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, 46750.

Please sign the online guest book at www.baileylove.com.

Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Thomas Lee Baker.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary

35 West Park Drive

Huntington, IN 46750

(260) 356-1710

wecare@baileylove.com

<https://www.baileylove.com>

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I am not going to funeral homes or memorial services since the pandemic began but want you and your family to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers and have my sincere sympathy. - Rita Schroll

Rita Schroll - December 29, 2021 at 12:51 PM

BM

“ Our sincere sympathy to Uncle Toms Family, I am one of his nieces and always enjoyed Uncle Toms visits here in Lagro with us and talking about his tractors to my son, Mike! He has no more pain now and with the Lord and his Family, what better place to be!! You will be missed



Barbara Baker Marshall - December 24, 2021 at 12:55 AM

GI

“ Gay Ingold lit a candle in memory of Thomas Lee Baker



Gay Ingold - December 23, 2021 at 11:37 AM

RD

“ Randy Denton lit a candle in memory of Thomas Lee Baker



Randy Denton - December 23, 2021 at 05:50 AM

MW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Melissa and your family. 🙏❤️



Mary Wilson - December 22, 2021 at 03:00 PM

RS

Having grown uP in Andrews, i had known many from Tom's family for years. We once lived next to the Smut's family (Bonnie's parents) in Andrews and i attended school in Andrews with Mike, Terry and their sisters. Played "fast-pitch" softball with Tom as our number one pitcher. He was very good, though his pitch-delivery was a bit unusual. We won the league championship around the years 1967 playing for the Huston Construction ball team, and Tom was a BIG part of our success. God Bless you all!

Rodger Smith - November 22, 2025 at 07:04 PM