



Thomas S. Kolbert

December 13, 1939 - December 5, 2023

December 5, 2023, Age 83, of Cheektowaga, NY passed peacefully surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of 33 years to Elaine T. (nee Domin) Kolbert; loving father of Thomas Kolbert, Kimberly (John) Krempa, Kelly Lopez, Kristen (Shaun) Carlisle, Kolleen (Paul) Parwulski , Kerry (James) Dudziak and stepchildren, Kimberly Wagner and Randy Wagner. Cherished grandfather to many beautiful grandchildren and great grandchildren. Tom began his career as a Court Reporter in 1968 and later served as Town Justice for 10 years with the Village of Sloan, 25 years with the Town of Cheektowaga, & 4 years with the Village of Depew. He received many accolades, especially the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Special Recognition Award, as well as the Citizen of the Year by the Cheektowaga Police Captains and Lieutenants Association. He was also a member of the Rescue Hose Co. No. 1 for over 48 years. The family will be present to receive relatives and friends on Monday December 11th from 3-7 PM at the DANIEL R. SMOLAREK FUNERAL HOME, 2510 Union Rd., Cheektowaga (2 blocks south of William St.). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday at 10 AM in St. Andrews RC Church, Sloan. Please assemble at Church. Interment in St Stanislaus Cemetery. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations may be made in Tom's name to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Please leave condolences online at www.SmolarekCares.com

Thomas S. Kolbert, 83, Dedicated Judge Helped Victims of Abuse

December 13, 1939-December 5, 2023

Thomas S. Kolbert served as Cheektowaga Town Justice for 25 years, and finished his career with over 40 years of judicial and court room experience. The retired judge died under Hospice care in Cheektowaga, NY on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. He was 83 years old.

A Cheektowaga native, Thomas began his career as a Court Reporter in 1968. He later served as Town Justice for three jurisdictions. He was appointed as Acting Judge for the Village of Sloan in 1985 and served for ten years in that role. He was appointed to Cheektowaga Town Justice in 1989, where he served for 25 years, and was appointed Acting Village Justice for Depew in 1995, where he served for four years. Substance and Domestic abuse were his top two issues. As a Town Justice, he helped victims and their families obtain fairness, while assisting in rehabilitating offenders. In 1991, as Cheektowaga Town Justice, Thomas developed the Victim Impact Program for First Time Offenders, in order to educate first time DWI offenders as to the dangers of drinking and driving, as well as the devastating impact it has on family and friends. Over 7,400 offenders successfully completed this program. Numerous other courts adopted this program, as well as other courts as far reaching as Pennsylvania. In 2000, Thomas developed the Cheektowaga Domestic Violence Court, where offenders' progress was overseen and reviewed by the court. As Cheektowaga Town Justice, he received many accolades. Among them, in 1994, he was the recipient of the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Special Recognition Award, as well as the Citizen of the Year by the Cheektowaga Police Captains and Lieutenants Association. He was a member of the Rescue Hose Fire Volunteer Company for over 48 years. Thomas is survived by his wife of 33 years, Elaine, a retired Buffalo educator and his children, Thomas Kolbert, Kimberly (John) Krempa, Kelly Lopez, Kristen (Shaun) Carlisle, Kolleen (Paul) Parwulski, Kerry (James) Dudziak and stepchildren, Kimberly Wagner and Randy Wagner, and many beautiful grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family will be present to receive

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Cemetery Details

St. Stanislaus Cemetery

700 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Daniel R. Smolarek Funeral Home - Cheektowaga
2510 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 668-3122
<https://smolarekfh.com/>

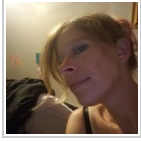
Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Daniel R. Smolarek Funeral Home - Cheektowaga
2510 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 668-3122
<https://smolarekfh.com/>

Please Assemble at Church

Tribute Wall



“ *My thoughts are with the family. I am very sorry for your loss. Tommy was a very kind man. He will be missed but never forgotten.* ”



Chelsea Ryniec - December 11, 2023 at 05:26 PM

JK

“ *To Elaine & family. Our condolences God bless May he rip. God is with him. Jim and Linda Kaz* ”

James Kazmierczak - December 10, 2023 at 08:14 PM

SS

“ *With heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your loved one. Your fond memories will always keep him close in your hearts.* ”

Sandra Steffen



Sandra Steffen - December 10, 2023 at 07:49 AM

DG

“ *To Kerry, Jimmy, and families -- Please accept my deepest sympathies. The loss of a dad is never easy. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.* ”

Dodie Guzzo



Dorothy Guzzo - December 08, 2023 at 02:42 PM

RS

“ Elaine and family, we were deeply saddened to learn of Tom’s passing. Needless to say he was a very special person to all who knew him. His detail in all he did was exceptional, especially when he performed our wedding ceremony 29 years ago. 🙏🙏🙏 RIP Your Honor.

Ron & Mary Springer
Lake Wylie, SC

ron springer - December 07, 2023 at 06:29 PM

MP

So many souls have gone this year may god grant them all salvation as he said he would my prayers and love to his family my god grant you all peace

michael persutti - December 07, 2023 at 07:53 PM

DO

Elaine and family our deepest condolences he was a wonderful man and friend

Dan + Linda ostempowski - December 08, 2023 at 08:55 AM

CG

“ We have heard so many wonderful things about Mr Kolbert so know the world has lost a very special person. Our condolences to the entire family.

Sincerely, Chris & Andy G.

Chris Guerrasio - December 07, 2023 at 01:51 PM

BH

“ *Dear Elaine and Family,
We are so sorry about Tom's passing. He has certainly left his mark on all the towns in which he served. We have many fond memories of all the good times we have share over the years. We wish we could be there in person to offer our condolences to you but please be assured of our love and prayers from across the miles. May Tom rest in peace.*

*Bill and JoAnn Herman
Dallas, Texas*

Bill and JoAnn Herman - December 07, 2023 at 08:44 AM

TM

“ *Elaine, Tom Jr. & Family , I am saddened to hear that my dear friend has passed away. I will always remember him as the great person he was, A friend that you could always count on, A person who always tried to do the best he could for the Town of Cheektowaga as their Judge, I will miss the times we spent together , The times we talked about so many things, Tom was a very special person in my life, He always was there to help anyone in there time of need. I was so proud to have him as my friend. I know that God will always watch over him in heaven and upon arriving his little puppies will be at the gate waiting for him to once again be with there love. May the Lord watch over you always and help your family thru this most difficult time. See you soon my Friend, With all my Love.*

Respectfully,

*Timothy Murek Sr.
December 06, 2023*

Timothy Murek - December 06, 2023 at 09:50 PM

JW

Elaine and family, I am so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I had the great fortune of working with Tom for many years at the Cheektowaga Town Court and the Town was so fortunate to have such a dedicated Judge who devoted such energy to developing new alternative court programs. He was a pleasure to work with and a fun, wonderful person to have as a friend. He will be missed by many.

*Jeff Whiting
December 11, 2023*

Jeff Whiting - December 11, 2023 at 04:40 PM