



Thomas Michael Gardner

January 7, 2026

Thomas “Tom” Michael Gardner Sr., 78, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, passed away on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in Lancaster. He was the son of Albert Gardner and June Gardner.

Tom was a steady presence, quiet in his way, strong in his character, and relentless in his work ethic. He started hanging drywall and spent his life taking on whatever work was needed to make sure his family was cared for. He wasn’t a man of big speeches; he showed love through dependability, sacrifice, and doing the right thing when no one was watching.

For more than three decades, Tom served the Lancaster community as a volunteer Fire Police officer, giving his time and energy to keep others safe. He was recognized as Officer of the Year, an honor that reflected how seriously he took service and responsibility. When he wasn’t working or volunteering, he enjoyed bowling, a simple thing that brought him real joy.

Tom is survived by his wife, Belen Emily Gardner; his son Thomas Michael Gardner Jr. of Lancaster and his wife, Anne; and his son, Jeffrey Dale Gardner of York and his wife, Holley. He was a proud grandfather to Tyler, Bailey, and Gracie (children of Thomas Michael Gardner Jr.) and Trenton, Jaysean, and Ebonee (children of Jeffrey Dale Gardner), and a proud great-grandfather to Keitaro (child of Trenton).

He is also survived by his siblings: Robbie and his wife, Becky; Rick and his wife, Gayle; Butch and his wife, Christine; Richard Whealton and his wife, Susan; Gary Cooper and his wife, Kim; Henry Cooper Jr.; Randy C. Sr. and his wife, Dorothy; Sheila Hubert; Penny and her husband, Bill Mullady; and Michelle Gardner.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and June Gardner, and siblings: Kenny Zimmerman, Randy Gardner, Dennis Gardner, Bruce Cooper, Brian Cooper Sr., Harry Cooper, and Ginny Cooper. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Maureen, wife of Dennis Gardner.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Maple Grove Community Building at a later date. The services are now postponed due to the weather forecast.

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *tom and i had a lot of fun together bowling and going to clubs,*

barry waltz - March 18 at 09:24 AM

MM

“ *My condolences to the family. Rest in peace Tom.*

Mark Myers - January 12 at 03:17 PM

CM

“ *Tom you will be very missed by your family and friends. Rest in Pease! Cathy Miller*

Cathy Miller - January 12 at 02:47 AM