



## Thomas "Tom" A. Prather

February 3, 1932 - February 9, 2020

Thomas "Tom" Archie Prather, 88, of Traverse City formerly of Elk Rapids, passed away on Sunday February 9, 2020. Tom was born on February 3, 1932 in Cass County, Michigan to the late Thomas Eston and Nell (Gleason) Prather. He married the love of his life Virginia "Ginny" Leach on August 14, 1955 in Cassopolis, Michigan. Tom had been employed in the fishing tackle industry, this provided him the opportunity to live in different areas of the country. He was the vice president with James Heddon and Sons and Bass Pro Shops and also the president of Glen L. Evans Company. Tom also worked in radio for many years, with KIHHR, WTUB and WDOW. He lived in Elk Rapids and Traverse City for over 20 years. In his spare time, Tom enjoyed photography, history and researching genealogy. Tom always valued his many friendships, he had many close friends made through his morning coffee group. Above all, spending time with his family was his greatest joy. He will be remembered for the love, care and devotion he shared with his wife, Ginny.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Ginny; two daughters, Ginny (David) MacDonald and Gwen Prather; five grandchildren, Allie (Blake) Becker, Spree (Tsubishi) MacDonald, Alden (Joshua) Griffus, Morgain MacDonald, and Eston Prather; and eight great-grandchildren, Nthabeleng, Bohlale, Phaledi, Otho, Leslie, Harlow, Josie and Amelia. Tom is also survived by his two sisters, Jane (Robert) Deal and Ann (Larry) Keller, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service honoring both Virginia and Thomas will take place at 11:00 a.m., with visitation starting at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse City, Michigan 49684. A public virtual webcasting of the service can be viewed at [www.rjfh.tv](http://www.rjfh.tv).

In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a memorial donation to the Alzheimer's Association, <https://alz.org>.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Tom's family at his tribute page

at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
[info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com](mailto:info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com)  
<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

## Memorial Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
[info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com](mailto:info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com)  
<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

## Public Virtual Funeral Webcasting

APR 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

[www.rjfh.tv](http://www.rjfh.tv)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Thomas "Tom" A. Prather*



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 12, 2021 at 02:56 PM

JJ

“ *Ginny & Family~*

*I took a few trips with Tom & Ginny. Tom was so kind .. even let me take the aisle seat in the Moon River Theater so I could see Andy Williams come down the aisle. So sorry to hear of his passing. He will be missed.*

*Judy Judd*

*Portland OR (formerly of Hood River OR)*

Judy Judd - February 18, 2020 at 01:29 AM

CW

“ *Dear Ginny and family,*

*We are saddened to hear of Tom's passing. He was always delightful to me and my mother, Dorothy (Hoyt) Roth (Palatine, IL). She has asked that I let you all know she sends her thoughts and prayers. He has left a wonderful legacy.*

*Kindest wishes,*

*Cindy Roth-Wurster*

Cindy Roth Wurster - February 16, 2020 at 07:59 PM

RH

“ *Ginny and Family--*

*My prayers are with you in the loss of Tom. Great guy. I'll always remember his assistance when we purchased our house in 1986. Also, a great client.*

*Bob Hastings*

ROBERT D HASTINGS - February 16, 2020 at 03:47 PM

CD

“ From on Michigander to another, and lots of Hood River, Oregon memories, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Carol and Jim Drennen, White Salmon Washington [Palate Pleaser by Carol Lynn]

Carol Drennen - February 16, 2020 at 01:58 PM

 Lisa Gauthier

“ I've only known him for a short time..but long enough to know he had a strong spirit.....someone u could just take to right away...as I did...now I read more about him in these posts from ones that knew him longer.....this wonderful man fit in with every where in life...it sure would have been nice to keep him around longer...this took me by surprise...one night I was talking with him...and then the next.....he will be forever missed...hugs and love to his family and friends

Lisa Gauthier - February 14, 2020 at 12:58 AM



“ Tom and Ginny were one of my favorite couples when I worked at Glen Eagle. First met them when Ginny's mom moved in, circa 2001. Glad I got to visit them when they moved to Boardman Lake Glen's. We both had an interest in Oriental arts. Chatted forever about it.

April Putman - February 13, 2020 at 07:21 PM

DV

“ Tom was the General Manager of WDOW Radio, Dowagiac, Michigan when I got into the business in 1967. He was very patient with a "newbie." Nice guy. A couple years ago we hooked up on Facebook for the first time in probably 50 years. He was still a nice guy. R.I.P., Tom.

Drew Vogel - February 13, 2020 at 03:24 PM

DJ

“ I didn't meet Tom until my dad (Bob) moved into Glen Eagle. We had some interesting breakfast stories together! Ginny my prayers go out to you and your family. Tom was truly a very nice man and my dad enjoyed both of you very much. Debbie Jones

Debra Jones - February 12, 2020 at 11:49 PM

MS

“ We have lost a Dear, True, Faithful friend. Tom and Ginny have shared their lives with us through the way they lived and through the book Tom published not long ago. His pride in his family was always number one.  
We will miss his comforting, positive, warm smile, and loving ways.  
Love and Blessings,  
Marcia & Mike Spitzley

Mike Spitzley - February 12, 2020 at 08:46 AM



“ grotchkey as he would say on a daily he always had some good jokes always something good and funny to say. im sure going to miss you dearly. with great sympathy it was a pleasure to be your care giver not just for you but for ginny as well fly high buddy. gonna miss you in the mornings and your coffee runs were all going to love n miss u journey well my friend



June Limon - February 12, 2020 at 08:23 AM

CB

“ Gwen, Ginny and family,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. Your dad was such a great guy. His driving kind of scared me, but another than that I thought the world of him. Hugs and prayers from Idaho.

Connie Brown - February 11, 2020 at 08:31 PM

GP

Thank you! His driving always freaked me out a bit, too.

Gwen Prather - February 12, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Merry Okonoski - February 11, 2020 at 05:14 PM

MC

“ *Uncle Tom was an extraordinary man of intelligence and wit. I could sit and talk with him for hours. His conversations were always interesting and entertaining. He was a man of action; if a good idea occurred to him, he acted on it. Like mailing the whole family calendars with everyone's birthdays and anniversaries, or writing his memoirs. He thought deeply and carefully about important issues. Uncle Tom was a terrific example to all of us and he will be missed very much. May he find eternal rest after a life well lived.* ”



Michelle Coakley - February 11, 2020 at 03:28 PM

JT

“ *Truly a caring and wonderful man. It was a lasting privilege for me to sit at the breakfast table with him at Java's over several years. Some of the best laughs of my life were shared with him. Sad he's gone; I was hoping to touch base with him one more time. My kids and grand-kids have all sat at that same table and join me in our heartfelt extension of sympathy.* ”

John Tschudy - February 11, 2020 at 02:03 PM

DG

*Tom was so dear and so smart and so sincere. He helped anyone with anything he could. He created the coffee group at Java Jones in Elk Rapids mi that is still going strong. Thank you, Tom, for the memories of you we all share.*

Dick and Betsy Garner - February 11, 2020 at 02:31 PM

RS

*Tom and Ginny lived at Meadowview Commons Condominium for several years. It was my pleasure to have spent time with both of them. Tom was on the Board for a few years before they moved to Glen Eagle. It was enjoyable working with him. His actions helped save money for our Association. I treated him as a friend and enjoyed having him drive me into Traverse City for meetings. Thanks go to both Tom and Ginny for the time I spent with them.*

Rich Smith - April 16, 2021 at 05:32 PM