



Thomas Paul Tranbarger

September 26, 1936 - May 9, 2026

Thomas Tranbarger, 89, passed away peacefully on May 9, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones. He was born on September 26, 1936, in Anderson to Charles G. and Catherine A. (Miller) Tranbarger.

Thomas was a graduate of Anderson High School. Following graduation, he proudly served in the United States Army for two years. After completing his military service, he went to work for Guide Lamp as a Tool and Die Maker, where he dedicated himself to his craft with pride and a strong work ethic. He was known for his reliability, skill, and quiet determination throughout his career.

Thomas was a devoted member and one of the founding members of Pendleton Baptist Church when it opened in the 1970s. Throughout the years, he faithfully served the church in countless ways. Whether something needed repaired, updated, maintained, or cared for, Thomas was always willing to lend a hand. He served as a Deacon, Elder, Treasurer, grounds keeper, and filled just about every role needed within the church. His dedication, servant's heart, and unwavering faith left a lasting impact on his church family and community.

Thomas was also well known throughout the community for owning and operating Tranbarger's Apple Barn since 1967. He took great pride in caring for and harvesting 25 varieties of apples. Alongside his beloved wife, Shirley, they welcomed visitors to Tranbarger's Apple Barn, where they sold fresh apples, cider, and honey to the public. The orchard became a destination for

people traveling from all over, not only for the products, but for the warm conversations and welcoming atmosphere Thomas and Shirley created. Thomas never met a stranger and made countless acquaintances and lifelong friends through the years.

In 1991, Thomas fulfilled a lifelong dream by building his own RV-4 airplane, which he proudly flew for more than 20 years. Aviation became one of his greatest passions, and he loved traveling to communities and airports throughout Indiana with Shirley by his side. The two enjoyed flying together for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, making cherished memories along the way. He was a proud member of the local Experimental Aircraft Association club and deeply enjoyed the friendships and camaraderie that came with it.

Above all, Thomas will be remembered for his kind heart, gentle spirit, and the love he shared with his family and friends throughout his life. He treasured time spent with those he loved and created countless memories that will forever be held close by all who knew him. His warmth, wisdom, and caring nature touched many lives.

Thomas leaves behind a loving family and dear friends who will continue to honor his memory and celebrate the life he lived. His legacy of compassion, strength, and devotion to family will never be forgotten. Thomas is survived by his beloved wife, Shirley (Brooks) Tranbarger; sons, Kerry (Michelle) Tranbarger, Chris (Laura) Tranbarger, Dalen Tranbarger, and Tim (Rachel) Johns; grandchildren, Kyle (Elaina) Tranbarger, Kaleigh (Will) Ellis; Nathanael and Noah Tranbarger, Brittney Tranbarger, Tristan and Travis Molnar, and Sarah Tranbarger; several great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews,

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles G. and Catherine A. Tranbarger; son, Todd E. Tranbarger; sisters, Lois McIntire, Nancy Swigart, and Norma Brannon.

Thomas leaves behind a loving family and dear friends who will continue to honor his memory and celebrate the life he lived. His legacy of compassion, strength, and devotion to family will never be forgotten.

Visitation will be on Saturday, May 16th, 2026, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory, 200 West 53rd Street, Anderson, IN 46013. Open sharing will begin at 12:30 PM.

There will be a private graveside service at East Maplewood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made towards Pendleton Baptist Church, 207 Old State Road 132 West, Pendleton, IN, 46064, or to Community Hospice, 7330 Shadeland Station Suite 150, Indianapolis, IN, 46256, in honor of Thomas.

www.LooseCares.com.

Cemetery Details

East Maplewood Cemetery

200 College Drive
Anderson, IN 46012

Previous Events

Friends and Family

MAY 16. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory
200 W 53rd St
Anderson, IN 46013
(765) 649-5255
info@loosecares.com

Open Sharing

MAY 16. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ 69 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Loose Funeral Home - May 16 at 10:00 AM

LB

“ *Thomas worked with our Dad, Frank Horn, Jr at Guide Lamp. Dad had high praise for him. So sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for his family.*

Lisa Horn Betz & Traci Horn Sicurella

Lisa Betz - May 14 at 09:42 PM

JT

“ *So sorry to hear of Paul's passing. He and Shirley were great friends to my mom, Leola Murphy and her twin sister, Leota O'Bannon. We enjoyed visiting with them and loved going to the orchard.*

May God's peace comfort you Shirley and your beloved family.

Janet Tunget - May 14 at 08:58 PM

HF

“ *HOS Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.*



HOS Family - May 14 at 01:34 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.*



May 14 at 07:46 AM

JC

“ *John and Joan Cannon purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.*



John and Joan Cannon - May 13 at 03:24 PM

DH

“ Sharon and I purchased some trees to be planted in Uncle Tom's honor. I wish we could request them to be apple trees, but I know that the trees chosen will be exactly what the forest needs. Uncle Tom will be missed but the very fond memories I have of him will continue to be shared! I always share my favorite- of all of us in Arizona and him with sweat dripping down his face after eating some peppers. We asked "Was it hot??" to which he calmly replied, "Nope." Thank you for the airplane rides, the fun stories, the love and memories. We'll miss you "Uncle Shirley"!! xo

Deanna Hawlish - May 13 at 02:35 PM

DH

“ Deanna H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.

Deanna H. - May 13 at 02:28 PM

SS

“ Sending condolences to his wife and family. Such a kind man. We would always stop by to buy fresh cider and apples in the fall. Prayers for all his family and his sweet wife too.

sue scheck - May 12 at 09:40 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.



May 12 at 09:08 PM

AS

“ I can remember Tom coming to our house and helping putting on a new roof and being the kindest man

Amy Scarduzio - May 12 at 09:00 PM

TL

“ I met Tom through Dalen. Dalen and I dated our senior year. Any time I was at the farm , I remember that Tom was always kind to me.

Tracy Lindzy - May 12 at 08:37 PM

KF

“ Kimberly (Davis) DeMarchia and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.



Kimberly (Davis) DeMarchia and Family - May 12 at 08:28 PM

TF

“ The Bair family purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.



The Bair family - May 12 at 07:03 PM

TF

“ The Bair family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.

The Bair family - May 12 at 07:03 PM

JF

“ *Jared & Kendra Hord and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Paul Tranbarger.*



Jared & Kendra Hord and Family - May 12 at 02:57 PM