



## Mr. Tom Hinz

June 19, 1942 - May 3, 2025

Thomas “Tom” Hinz, 82, of Green Bay, passed away on Saturday, May 3rd at his home after a brief battle with ALS. He was born on June 19th, 1942, in Merrill, Wisconsin, son of the late Gerhard and Verna (Staus) Hinz.

Tom graduated from Merrill High School in 1960, after which he served in the U. S. Army from 1960-1963, spending one and a half years in Vietnam and Thailand. After his time in the service, he moved to Green Bay and among other things, worked as an usher at Green Bay Packers games. It was here that he befriended a Green Bay police officer who convinced him to pursue a career in law enforcement.

He started at the Green Bay Police Department in 1966 as a patrol officer, moving through the ranks to become Deputy Chief of Detectives, and eventually Assistant Police Chief. In 1997, after 31 years, he retired from the police department, and shortly after was elected Brown County Sheriff. He served as sheriff for 6 years, retiring in 2003. After this retirement, he took on the role of Director of Security and Safety at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, while also teaching as an adjunct instructor there. After retiring from these in 2007, he was elected to the position of Brown County Executive, where he led the county from 2007-2011. It was only after this fourth retirement did Tom begin to understand what the word “retire” meant. (By the way, do you know why it is called Brown County? Tom would ask you. And if you are reading this and don’t know the answer, look it up. It would make him smile.)

Throughout his life, Tom gave back to the community. He was a Board Member of Golden House for 23 years, was on the Advisory Board of the United Hmong Center of Brown County, and was an Emeritus Board Member of the NEW Community Shelter. He also served on the boards of the NWTC Foundation, the Bay Area Community Council and the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. He founded the Crime Prevention Foundation of Brown County, and also organized and served as the Mentor Coordinator of the Northeast Wisconsin Veterans Treatment Court. Through this organization he served and helped local veterans until his last day.

When Tom wasn't working or volunteering, he enjoyed playing golf, competing with his wife in cribbage, taking care of his yard, and having cookouts with family and friends. He was passionate about staying fit, and until ALS took hold of his body, you would find him at the YMCA or adding mileage to his running notebook. He started running in the 1970's, running in a multitude of races, including the first ever Bellin run in 1977 and the Boston Marathon 1984.

His early days of working at Packers games birthed in him a lifelong appreciation for the team, and "Packer Fan" only begins to describe Tom. Not only was he a season ticket holder, but he also had the privilege of working on the Packers' security team for a number of years. He was with the team during both the 1997 and 1998 Superbowl appearances. In 2011, Tom was asked to join the Packers Board of Directors and most recently served as a Director Emeritus.

He is survived by his wife Ursula Bertrand-Hinz, his daughters Coleen Hinz and Heidi Hinz, his stepchildren Greg (Susan) Bertrand, Monique (Eric) Hendrick, Michelle (Dale) Konshak, Nicole (David) Perret, grandchildren Nikita (Nick) Minesal, Aaron Smet, Sophia Perret, great grandchildren Maverick and Grant Minesal, and sister Mary Gates. He was preceded in death by his parents Gerhard and Verna Hinz.

Visitation will be held on Saturday May 10, 2025 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. at Spring Lake Church, 2240 Klondike Rd, Bellevue, WI. A Funeral Service

will follow at 12:30 P.M. with Rev. Chad Baudhuin officiating. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to one of the organizations listed above, for which Tom was so passionate. Or consider donating your time to a cause that matters to you.

It is impossible to convey the impact of one person and their work within just a few paragraphs. If there was a group or organization left out of this writing, we sincerely apologize. Please know that you were important to Tom.

Isaiah 40:1-2a (NIV) Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed.

Rest well, Tom. Your hard work is done.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 10. 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM (cst)

Spring Lake Church  
2240 Klondike Road  
Green Bay, WI 54311

## Funeral Service

MAY 10. 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Spring Lake Church  
2240 Klondike Road  
Green Bay, WI 54311

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ I remember Tom as a dedicated, conscientious law enforcement officer and a wonderfully kind person. My condolences to Ursula and the family for this loss. May your memories of him serve as great reminders of a great man.

Jack Williamsen

Jack Williamsen - May 11, 2025 at 10:15 AM

JS

“ I will be planting two trees in memory of Tom. I'll try to get to the service but with my work that may be impossible. Still trying to figure it out. Thank you Tom for all you have done for me.

It's been a sad few days for sure.

Jamie Starrett - May 10, 2025 at 10:39 AM

AE

“ Aaron, Glenn, Char, Al Smet & Engebose's purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Mr. Tom Hinz.



Aaron, Glenn, Char, Al Smet & Engebose's - May 09, 2025 at 01:55 PM

WG

“ William G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Tom Hinz.

William G. - May 07, 2025 at 09:55 AM

SV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom and his Family, and especially my buddy Mary. Lots of childhood memories from our time on Grand Avenue. Tom certainly lived a full and blessed life.

Scott & Kim Voigt  
Merrill WI

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Scott A Voigt - May 06, 2025 at 11:38 AM

TM

“ Urs, Barb and I are so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. We have known Tom since working together at the Red Owl store in De Pere in 1964 I have always thought of him as a big brother. It has truly been a pleasure knowing him and we will miss him greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. But at least we know that he is with Grandma Skarvan in heaven.

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Tom Martin - May 06, 2025 at 09:58 AM

DK

“ Urs, sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and all of Tom's family and loved ones. Tom was a great mentor for me. I will always remember his kindness, truthfulness, passion and leadership. His professionalism will never be surpassed. Tom was happiest when he was able to help others succeed. Rest in peace sheriff.  
Dennis and Peggy Kocken

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Dennis N Kocken - May 05, 2025 at 02:07 PM

TL

“ Like a lot of people in Brown County I had tremendous experiences with Tom Hinz while he was involved in Golden House. Tom was the board chair. Tom was one of Golden House’s greatest advocates. While with the police department and Sheriff’s Department he kept a watchful eye on relationships between Golden House and law enforcement. He was a leader. Tom was instrumental in the new Golden House in the 1990’s. When Tom spoke, people listened and if he was behind a cause, people knew there was significant integrity with Tom and the cause. He was a visionary and helped bring mandatory arrest for domestic violence to Brown County. Tom was a great servant leader, and was mindful of his impact, yet he was very humble and helped people grow into even better leaders. I’m grateful to have had him as a good friend.

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**Toni Loch** - May 05, 2025 at 10:29 AM

MS

“ I didn’t work with Tom for long and not since 2008, but I admired him. I recognized in him a natural empathy, a desire to serve, and an ability to bring together people who didn’t always want to be brought together. I’m thankful for his service and sorry for the loss felt by those who knew him better than I did.

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**Mark Schroeder** - May 05, 2025 at 10:25 AM

DL

“ I met Tom thru the VTC. We had the same vision. He was an instrumental part of making it such a great success! It was an honor working with him. He was a wealth of information and experience. He was a mentor, advocate and friend. RIP BROTHER!!!!

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**Drew LaFrombois** - May 05, 2025 at 10:12 AM



“ I worked many years with Tom at the GBPD. A man of a pure soul and integrity who looked out for opportunities to do good in this world.  
My condolences to his family and friends. He will be sorely missed.

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**Glenn Deviley** - May 05, 2025 at 07:57 AM

SD

“ Sending my condolences to Tom's family. I met Tom years ago as part of the Don VanRite deer hunting group. Tom was one of the most relaxed and laid back guys I've ever met. I had the privilege of playing endless games of cribbage with him while enjoying a cocktail or two and a handful of peanuts in the shell. We were partners in a state cribbage tournament that after giving our best effort we didn't fair to well.  
Thanks for the memories Tom R.I.P.  
Steve

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**Steve DeLeeuw** - May 05, 2025 at 07:49 AM

BG

I was privileged to know Tom and always appreciated his calm and professional demeanor. My sympathy to the family. I will miss seeing all those sunsets.

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**Bill Gollnick** - May 07, 2025 at 10:01 AM



MC

“ I met Tom and interacted with him on matters when he headed up the campus security department at NWTC, after he retired from the sheriff’s department and county executive role. Enjoyed hearing him talk about his visit to Ireland, and I was always impressed with his wisdom and perspective about things, and his continuous service and devotion to the community. I learned a lot from Tom. A very decent and respectable person. I will miss him. He is now in the good hands of the Lord.

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**Mark Cichon** - May 04, 2025 at 10:55 PM

MB

“ Tom was such a caring person. He was a lifesaver for me whenever I was facing challenges at the GBPD. He also brightened my time when I was working Guest Services at Lambeau Field. Condolences to the family.

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**Marlene Borowitz** - May 04, 2025 at 06:40 PM

KG

“ In 1975 Tom and Bob Langan welcomed me to the afternoon shift of the GBPD. I always enjoyed working for and with Tom, seeing him often at the PD and then in the community when he was with the SO and Executive Office. In 2007 my son, Jared, died by suicide. In 2008 we started a 5K fundraiser for scholarships in his memory. We did the 5K for ten years and I’m recalling Tom was there nearly, if not, every year and always gave a supportive embrace. We’ll miss you Tom. Rest in peace.

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**Ken Gehm** - May 04, 2025 at 05:52 PM

RC

“ An incredible life of public service to the people of Northeast Wisconsin. Even in retirement he impacted needy veterans. I will certainly miss his presence at the many functions he attended and the conversations. He made our community better on many levels.

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**Robert Cowles** - May 04, 2025 at 05:30 PM

MG

“ 13 years ago I asked Tom to eulogize Pat at his funeral. Tom did a wonderful job. He asked other BCSD people for stories and they delivered. I'll always be grateful for that day. Ursula and family, you have my deepest sympathy.

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**Mary Gilson** - May 04, 2025 at 03:55 PM

AS

“ My condolences to the family! My father was a past Sheriff of Brown County and when he passed Tom traveled to northern Wisconsin to pay his respect! Honoring others reflects the strength and character of Tom! I offer my story out of the love of honor! Artley Skenandore

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**Artley Skenandore** - May 04, 2025 at 02:47 PM

PS

“ He was a good man. I learned a lot about leadership from him. He will be missed

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**phil steffen** - May 04, 2025 at 02:39 PM

CH

“ 13 files added to the album veterans treatment court



Craig Huxford - May 04, 2025 at 12:23 PM