



## Thomas Hower

August 22, 1940 - August 22, 2008

KINGSFORD - Charles Thomas Hower, 68, of 243 River Hills Road, Kingsford, died Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital.

Tom was born Oct. 12, 1939, son of Charles T. and Dorothy (Polk) Hower. He graduated from Milwaukee Lutheran High School in 1958. He served three years in the United States Army Military Police.

On Nov. 30, 1963, he married Verna Hodgins at Trinity United Methodist Church in Iron Mountain.

Tom worked for 12 years at North Central Airlines followed by 10 years with the W. B. Thompson Co. He fulfilled his dream of owning a restaurant, by purchasing the Blind Duck Inn in 1986. He enjoyed that pursuit for 12 years before retiring and selling the restaurant. He worked for the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District for the next four years as bussing coordinator and then bus driving certification instructor for Northern Michigan University.

Tom was an active member of Our Saviours Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. He belonged to the Michigan Archery Club, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Dickinson County Chamber of Commerce. He was a past winner of the Jaycee Speak-up. Tom was actively involved with the Dickinson County Community Theater for 25 years and was emcee of the Amidon

Follies for several years.

He enjoyed canoeing, boating, fishing, snorkeling, acting and emceeing events. He indulged many family members and friends in card games he rarely won. Tom was an accomplished cook and was a 40-year member of the gourmet club.

He discovered his passion for wood carving in 1992 and co-founded the Woodbee Carving Club which dramatically called attention to that form of art in this area. He became certified as a master carver and had been asked to showcase his skills at classes across the country. Tom taught several techniques and had been a featured carver at many shows, both locally and afar. His talents were also publicized in carving magazines.

Tom loved to travel with his wife and family. He had a special place in his heart for the Cayman Islands.

He had a great love and pride of his family and was adored and deeply admired by his kids and grandkids. Tom was the beloved and trusted husband to his wife of 44 years. He has touched too many lives to mention and will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know his love, friendship, generosity and sense of humor.

Tom is survived by his wife, Verna; son, Mark Hower of Iron Mountain; daughter, Dianna (John) McDonald of Breitung Township; two grandchildren, Taylor and Brady McDonald; his mother, Dorothy Hower of Iron Mountain; sisters-in-law, Ruthann (Henry) Badini of Iron Mountain, Alice (Gerald) Taff of Iron Mountain and Marge Hodgins of Kingsford; an honorary brother, Bill (Sandy) Reetz of Silverthorne, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Hower.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesday at Our Saviours Lutheran Church. Funeral services will follow at 12 noon at the church. Rev. Stephen Cowen and Rev. Lee Liverance will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his memory to the Dickinson County Cancer Unit Loan Closet or Our Saviours Lutheran Church.

Condolences to the family of Tom Hower can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

PD

“ Dear Verna, Mark, & Diana,  
I was sad to hear about your husband and father. He was a great man, he loved everyone especially the children, I can remember one Christmas when I was home and when to church for the Christmas Eve service when he did the children's sermon. He saw me and gave me a great big smile. I will miss him deeply. I pray for your family as you grieve.

*Pam Parsons Dupuis*

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**Pam Parsons Dupuis** - September 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Verna, Mark and Deanna: I received the sad word this morning of Tom's passing. I have been recalling the great times we had playing raquetball, camping and discussing the merits of becoming a restaurateur when I owned the Mine Shaft. I have many great memories of 'Hower the Horrible' as I named him when he would whip my butt at raquetball or leave me with a "strawberry" where the ball would hit me. Tom was a good friend, one of the most talented people I have known, and always made the most of every day with laughter and his smile.

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**John Schaefer** - August 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Mark our deepest sympathy on the passing of your dad. I am so glad Scott and I had a chance to see him this year. Give your mother our deepest sympathy. He is in no pain now and he is still with you in your heart. Hold on to all those funny moments you and Scott told me you had with your dad camping and spending time together.

*Remember Mark you have a room to vacation at in south Florida anytime.*

*All our love Laura & Scott Lord and Mithell and Giselle Lord*

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**Scott, Laura, Mitchell and Giselle Lord** - August 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Mrs. Hower:

*So sorry to hear of Mr. Hower's passing. You were great neighbors when my parents Len & Arlene & us 3 kids (Steve & Debbie) lived on Oslo Avenue. I even remember babysitting your 2 children.*

*My prayers are with you.*

*Mrs. Ellen Styberski Coogan*

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**Ellen Styberski Coogan** - August 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ I was so sorry to learn of Tom's passing from my cousin Kathleen Kimball. Years ago, I stood up to her wedding and you both did also as I recall.

*I remember our family gatherings in Milwaukee for Thanksgiving and Christmas and "Tommy" was always good for many laughs and humor as us kids ate in the kitchen on 31st and Garfield and 47th and North.*

*I hadn't seen him since Kathleen's wedding I'm sure, but Kathleen has been keeping me updated.*

*My prayers are with his whole family and he is now at peace.  
Condolences to your whole family.*

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**Mary Jane Gruel Drexler** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Verna and Family - I wanted to express my thoughts and prayers as well. When my Mom called to tell me the news, I couldn't help to stop to think about how he was such a huge part of my life directly and indirectly growing up.

*I have so many great memories of him, from the cook outs at Uncle Bill and Aunt Dar's at their house at the lake, the times at Our Savior's, and of course the summers working at the Blind Duck.*

*I can't help but smile thinking of the nights he would sit at the bar at the Duck, drinking a Southern Comfort with a twist, telling me stories making me laugh while cleaned up the bar at the end of the night. There were so many nights I would stay long after the restaurant closed just to talk with him. He was a great person, boss, friend, and Mentor. I learned so much from him and consider myself very blessed to say that I knew him.*

*With my deepest sympathy - Rob Strand*

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**Rob Strand** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Dear Verna, We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family at the loss of your dearest Tom. What an eloquent, gentle man-If one was fortunate enough to know Tom they could only have found themselves liking and admiring him, and we did very much. Sincerely, David and Beth Provencher

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**Beth & David Provencher** - August 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Dear Verna:  
*My deepest sympathies to you and your family on the loss of tom. I interviewed tom many times on the radio (in regards to his involvement in many community activities) and always enjoyed having him as a guest. He had a great sense of humor and I always looked forward to getting together with him. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*

*Pete Frecchio*

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**pete frecchio** - August 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *We just want you all to know you are in our prayers at this sad time. Tom was always so good to Haley and Jake. They loved and respected him dearly. I was always so grateful for the example he set. He will be missed by everyone whose life he touched. May God bless you all and bring you peace.*

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**Tina, Dave, Jake, & Haley Carlson** - August 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Dear Verna: We only spent 24 hours together a few years ago at Winsome Women but I enjoyed getting to know you and just want to express my sympathy in the passing of your husband, Tom. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Jean LaRocque** - August 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ Dear Verna

*You have our sincere sympathy. We will always cherish the wonderful times that we spent with Tom in the countless plays over the last 25 years. His portrayal as the electrician ( Saving Grace), Mayer Shin ( Music Man), Ally Hackem (Oklahoma), Luther Billus (South Pacific), The silent king (Once Upon...), the salesman (Plaza suite) and countless others live on as precious memories to all of his family and friends.*

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**Tom and Esther Neuner** - August 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Verna and Family-Very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I enjoyed working with him and his great sense of humor. I will miss seeing him on the airport road.

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**Ray Famiani** - August 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ To Tom's amazing family...I can't seem to come up with the right words to say. What a loss to everyone who ever knew Tom. You will always have such great memories to rely on and I will never forget the laughter-filled boat rides and Friday nights at the races. I'll bet St. Peter is bent over with laughter right now and is probably taking up a new hobby with Tom as his teacher. I love you all and wish I could take away the pain.

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**Nancy McIntyre** - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Verna and family, I am sorry to hear about Tom's passing. I met Tom one evening at the Blind Duck while eating there with my parents. I never got a chance to know Tom but my dad surely enjoyed his company. My dad told stories of he and Tom's adventures quite often. I know my dad enjoyed Tom's company and will miss him.

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**Daren Lukes** - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ TO VERNA , MOM DOROTHY , MARK , DIANNA & FAMILY , SO SORRY TO HEAR OF TOMS PASSING !!! HE WAS A JOY TO WORK FOR & SUCH A TALENTED CARVER !!!

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**RENA & RAY AMBROSIA** - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Verna and family, It was so sad to hear of Tom's passing. I have a carving that Tom did for me in my office and think of our times together in community theater and at our table at Marygrove. Tom was a one of the most talented people I ever knew and even though I live in Arizona now I will always cherish his friendship and the good natured rivalry we had. Dick

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**Dick Leathers** - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ My sympathy to you and your family.... Not only do I have memories of Tom at the Blind Duck.... But also as the School Bus Instructor for NMU... and Years ago at Pine Grove Country Club as a Mime. He had a very fulfilling life. He also told stories of Driving Garbage Trucks..... Grace

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**Grace Michaud** - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Dear Verna, Our Sympathy to you and your family.  
I will remember my Dish washing Days at The Blind Duck and Tom's Humor

Rosie Michaud - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I was so saddened to hear of Tom's passing. He was a beautiful man with a beautiful family and he will be dearly missed by all who knew him. My heart aches for your loss. Will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. I love you guys!

Laura (Kyyra) Silha - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Verna...sending out sympathy from North Dakota. Just know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Give Dorothy a GREAT BIG HUG from John and me.

Mavis and John Askew - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Our sincere sympathy in your loss. Remember ALL the good times.

Donald Rathke - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Diana and Family,  
I am so sorry to hear about your Dad. I just lost my mom, as you know, and my heart aches for you and your family. I will keep you all in my prayers and thoughts.  
Love,  
Sandy and Chuck (Fontecchio) Lantz

Sandy/Chuck Fontecchio/Lantz - August 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Verna, Dee, Mark & family-

*We just want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Tom was such an amazing, brilliant man who will be missed so greatly. We will never forget sitting around at the racing parties listening to him tell stories, our stomachs aching from laughing. We love you all. Please don't hesitate to call if you need anything at all!*  
Love, Mike, Gen & Austin

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**Mike, Gen & Austin Angeloff** - August 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM