



Thomas A Schum

February 22, 1943 - January 31, 2021

Dateline Ireland, Indiana

Thomas A. Schum, age 77 of Ireland, Indiana, passed away at 3:08 p.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at St. Vincent Heart Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Tom was born in Huntingburg, Indiana on February 22, 1943 to Frank and Dora (Wendholt) Schum. He married Sue Schwenk on November 28, 1968 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ireland.

He received degrees from Oakland City University, the University of Evansville, and additional degrees from Indiana State University.

Tom retired in 2001 as an art teacher and chairman of the Visual Arts Department from Jasper High School after 35 years of service. He started teaching at Jasper High School and 10th Street School in 1966. At that time JHS had approximately 50 students in two art classes. When he retired in 2001 the Art Department had grown to 350 students and three full time teachers. Tom started an art club which took trips to Chicago, and conducted a Gifted and Talented program that introduced students to five professional artists each year. Tom supervised large art shows representing about twenty schools that were hosted at the Jasper Holiday Inn for several years. He also supervised Artist-in-Residence programs that were offered by the Indiana Arts Commission.

He had served on the board of directors for the Jasper Community Arts Commission, and has been involved in the Jasper Arts Center since establishment, serving in various roles and organizing shows of work by local collectors, high schools, and his own personal work, which focused on ceramics. Since retirement, he focused his work on architectural sculpture, pottery and murals.

Tom was heavily involved with the Dubois County Museum, where he designed and painted wall murals, many depicting the history of Dubois County.

Tom also served as a driver's training instructor and also was a sales representative for Schum Monuments in Dale, which was established by his grandfather. He served as a Grand Marshall for the Jasper Strassenfest.

He credits his success to the support and cooperation of his family, the JHS school board, school administrators, Friends of the Arts, and the Jasper Community Arts Commission.

Tom was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, where he served as a lector for over 30 years. He and wife Sue were recipients of the Simon' Brute Award, and he was a member of the Ireland Knights of Columbus.

He enjoyed the Arts, fly fishing, classic cars, traveling, talking with friends over coffee, and spending time with family, especially his grandchildren. Tom made living an art. He had a huge heart and would always say "You can never have too many friends".

Surviving are his wife; Sue Schum of Ireland, one son; Eric Schum (Rachel), Jasper, one daughter; Kim Schroeder (Kevin), Jasper, four grandchildren; Evan and Noah Schum, and Jeb and Keegan Schroeder, one great grandchild; Lillian Schum, one sister; Jean Blue, Tell City, and two brothers; Bill Schum (Faith), Ohio, and Don Schum (Lee), Thailand.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers; Norm Stetter, and Bob Schum, and one sister; Rosemary Hildenbrand.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Thomas A. Schum will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 5, 2021 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ireland, Indiana with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. Mass time at St. Mary Catholic Church on Friday.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church, the Jasper Community Arts Commission, or the Dubois County Museum.

Online condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery

2829 North 500 West
Jasper, IN 47546

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
2829 N 500 W
Ireland, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
2829 N 500 W
Ireland, IN

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Schum’s passing. What an inspiration he was to me! His love for any & all kinds of art was contagious & I’m so thankful he was part of my growing & learning experience at Jasper High School. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Julie Otte Wedean

Julie Otte Wedean - February 17, 2021 at 10:57 AM

LB

“ I will always remember Mr. Schum as an inspiration. While being a student in his art classes at JHS, my love of art and teaching began. Through him, I learn the art of providing students with helpful criticism without crushing their creative spirit. My sympathies to his family.

Lisa Bartley - February 06, 2021 at 02:10 PM

DI

“ Tom was my art teacher in high school at Dale, Indiana. It’s interesting to note that he was just five years older than his students. I had the argument with Mr. Schum when he said “art was a skill” and I felt “ art was a talent”. I think we were both correct. RIP

Dixie - February 04, 2021 at 02:13 PM

CB

“ Sue and Family: We are sorry to hear about Tom’s passing. It is never easy to lose someone who has been so meaningful in your life. God give you strength during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

*Carolyn Wehr Blemker and
Marilyn Wehr Bueltel*

Carolyn Blemker - February 04, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ My condolences to the family. I was deeply saddened when I heard that Mr. Schum had died. He was a great teacher and a special friend. I know my family and I will miss him a lot. Will keep you in my prayers.

Hugs, Von & Jim Hogan

Von Hogan - February 04, 2021 at 09:56 AM

EF

“ Mr. Schum was full of kindness and humor. I'm so happy that I decided to take an Art History class and got to know him senior year. I'll never forget the day we began studying the Rococo era he brought in an urn of hot chocolate to share with the class some "Rococo Cocoa." I'm also so happy that we remained in contact after school via the Schum's friendship with my parents. I was always happy to see him. Love and peace to Sue and all of the family.

Emily (Huether) Fleischer - February 04, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ What a great friend and high school art teacher...friends even after he retired! R.I.P., Mr. Schum!

Michael Mike Woolsey - February 03, 2021 at 05:00 PM

TP

“ My sincere condolences to the Schum family. I met Tom years ago with the boys at McDonalds afternoon coffee. I am so sorry for your loss of this wonderful man. I am also sorry we never met up to have lunch at the White Steamer in my home town. With God's blessings, Tony Potts Washington, IN.

Tony Potts - February 03, 2021 at 02:42 PM

SO

“ Shelley Otto lit a candle in memory of Thomas A Schum



Shelley Otto - February 03, 2021 at 01:30 PM

JB

“ Deepest Sympathy, Prayers, Condolences, to Family, Friends!

James Birkle - February 03, 2021 at 12:26 PM

JH

“ Mr. Schum (as we all called him) taught me ceramics, sculpture, and how to operate an automobile safely in high school. In the classroom he was knowledgeable, kind, and fair, and he always made the effort to help students on an individual basis. Mr. Schum was one of my favorite teachers. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. My condolences to his family.

Josh Heinz - February 03, 2021 at 10:41 AM

CH

“ My sincere sympathy to the entire Schum family. Mr. Schum was an exceptional teacher. I enjoyed each and every class I took with him. We remained in touch the 40+ years since I was a student at JHS. The highlight of our relationship was when he helped my first graders with an art project several years ago. Mr. Schum gave his time and talent to this community whenever he could. He also kept us learning with his hours of volunteerism at the museum and around town with special projects. May he enjoy eternal rest, and may the memories of him comfort all. He will be best!



Chris Bohnert Hinkle - February 03, 2021 at 07:23 AM

AT

“ Mr Schum will be missed! He was one of my favorite teachers and I have so many happy memories of his art classes, including the haunted house that we organized as part of the art club! He always encouraged us to think outside the box and challenge ourselves in every project. Thank you for believing in us! Amy Budnick Thiel

amy thiel - February 02, 2021 at 11:18 PM

TP

“ I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Schum's passing. He was one of my very favorite teachers and always encouraged me to pursue my interest in art. How lucky we all were to have the opportunity to learn from someone so kind and talented. He will be greatly missed. Thanks for everything, Mr. Schum.

Tory (Vandeventer) Pearman - February 02, 2021 at 08:33 PM

CH

“ Tom was very kind and created some wonderful art pieces for our restaurant.
Chad & Kelsey

chad - February 02, 2021 at 07:58 PM

LA

“ Mr. Shum was instrumental in expanding my passion for art and creativity. Some of my best times in high school was in art class!

Leslie Acker - February 02, 2021 at 07:29 PM

PH

“ *Very sad to learn of Tom's passing. Excellent teacher, talented artist and just a wonderful guy. Always enjoyed when I would run into him and get the chance to talk for a minute. Wonderful family as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Tom will be greatly missed by this community..*

Paul, Sue, Thomas & Olivia Habig

Paul Habig - February 02, 2021 at 06:45 PM

CA

“ *Sue, Eric, Kim and Families,*

We send our deepest sympathy while realizing the loss to all of you but know how much the community has lost as well. Tom did so much to contribute through his artistic talent. His art is well known and his work was superb. He always went above what was expected and tackled jobs beyond his capabilities with great success. We send our sympathy to the Schum and Schwenk families as well.

Camilla and John Allen

Camilla Allen - February 02, 2021 at 03:29 PM



JV

“ *Jerrill And Jill Vandeventer lit a candle in memory of Thomas A Schum*



Jerrill and Jill Vandeventer - February 02, 2021 at 03:04 PM

JV

In memory of special teacher and wonderful man

Jerrill and Jill Vandeventer - February 02, 2021 at 03:05 PM

TP

I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Schum's passing. He was one of my very favorite teachers and always encouraged me to pursue my interest in art. How lucky we all were to have the opportunity to learn from someone so kind and talented. He will be greatly missed. Thanks for everything, Mr. Schum.

Tory (Vandeventer) Pearman - February 02, 2021 at 08:00 PM

BJ

Tom Schum was a wonderful gentleman and great friend. The entire community will surely miss this man of great talent and integrity. Our condolences to Sue and kids.

Bob and Melinda Johnson - February 03, 2021 at 07:01 PM