

Thomas J. Tilkens

June 19, 1957 – August 9, 2026

Thomas John Tilkens, 69, passed away on August 9, 2026, leaving behind a legacy filled with love, laughter, and a deep passion for farming. A cherished husband, beloved farmer, and spirited community member, Tom was born on June 19, 1957, in Wisconsin to the late John and Doris (Thyes) Tilkens.

He grew up nurturing an appreciation for the land and a strong work ethic, which set the foundation for his lifelong career as a proud dairy farmer. Tom thrived on the challenges and rewards of farming - from tending to his cattle to hauling grain in his beloved semi, which he considered his pride and joy. His contributions to the farming community went beyond the fields; he served as a judge for the FFA at Preble High School, inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders.

On October 29, 1983, Tom married, Karen Pahl at St. Paul Church in Luxemburg. They shared a beautiful life together. He had a great love of life with a sarcastic sense of humor. In his younger years, he enjoyed playing high school football, a good game of softball and bowling. As years went on he enjoyed the weekly camaraderie with friends in "The Old Farts Breakfast Club" at the Village Kitchen.

Tom is survived by his wife, Karen Tilkens; sisters, Ann Basten, Mary (Tom) Polcin, Judy (Brian) Pahl, Lori Tilkens; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Bob (Lori) Pahl, Diane (Jerry) Derenne; as well as by nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Doris Tilkens and his in-laws, Gordon and June Pahl.

Visitation will take place on Thursday, August 13, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at McMahon Funeral Home – Luxemburg. Funeral service will be held at 6:00 pm with Deacon Bob Miller officiating. A private entombment will follow at the Shrine of the Good Shepherd Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers a memorial fund will be established in Tom's name. McMahon Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences can be shared at McMahonFH.com.



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