

## *In Loving Memory*

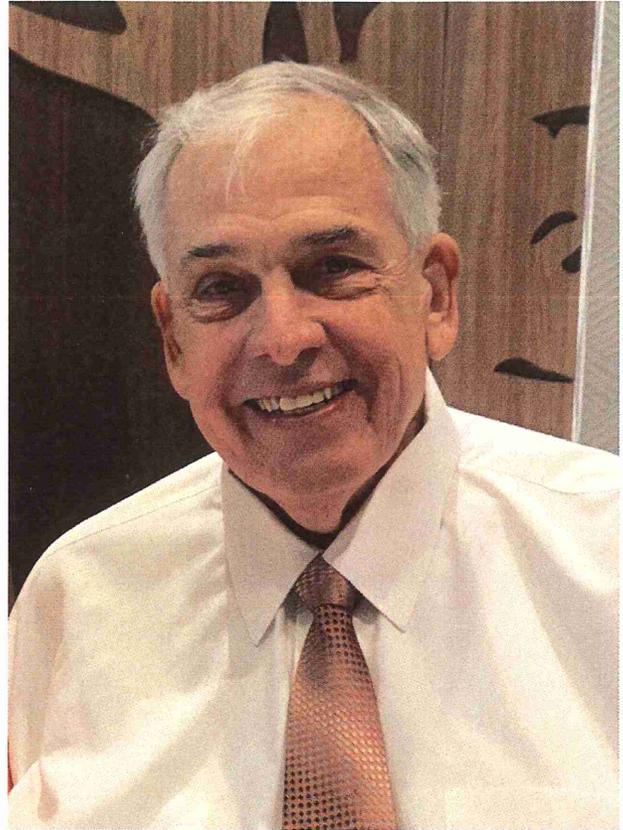
Tony was born and raised in St. Paul, MN and grew up in a large extended Italian family that gave him a life-long love of family. Tony's baby sister, Noella was his lifelong best friend. Tony graduated from Hill High School and Saint John's University. There, he joined the Biology Club to meet the love of his life, Mary. At St. John's, he also discovered a love for the outdoors and for Johnnie football—passions he carried throughout his life. He loved attending St. John's football games with his family and college room-mates. He later earned his MBA at the University of Saint Thomas, while remaining a proud Johnnie.

Tony and Mary were married in 1974. From that day on, Tony didn't just gain a wife—he also embraced Mary's four sisters and two brothers as his own, loving them as true siblings. Over the years, his circle of brothers and sisters grew, and he cherished each one as family. This July, Tony and Mary celebrated 51 years of marriage.

Tony loved training and competing with his beloved golden retrievers, Zach and Josh. As an active member of St. Joseph, he led mission trips and Boundary Waters adventures. He poured his heart into supporting his children's activities—often stepping in to coach their teams, and just as often cheering loudly from the bleachers for them and, later, his grandchildren.

Tony also found fulfillment in his professional life, spending 29 years with First Bank/US Bank in commercial banking and another 20 years with Frandsen Bank & Trust in various roles.

Tony loved to travel. To celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Tony and Mary brought the family to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Tony's happiest place was always Clear Lake, where he loved fishing, swimming, boating, star gazing, watching sunsets, and deer spotting with his family. He especially enjoyed quiet evenings by the bonfire—sometimes with a good Macallan, chocolate chip cookies, and cherished friends. Tony also treasured the joy of the time spent with his in-laws, Jim and Betty Rian, and the countless hours he helped with myriad projects.



*Tony*

## Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can,  
and wisdom to know the difference:  
living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardship  
as a pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did,  
this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it;  
trusting that You will make all things right  
if I surrender to Your will;  
So that I may be reasonably happy  
in this life and supremely happy  
with You forever in the next. AMEN

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

Celebrating the Life of

## *Anthony "Tony" John Crea, Jr.*

### **Born**

August 5, 1951 St. Paul, Minnesota

### **Passed Away**

September 18, 2025 St. Louis Park, Minnesota

### **Mass of Christian Burial at**

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

New Hope, Minnesota

Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:00 A.M.

### **Officiating**

The Reverend Terry Rassmussen

The Reverend Bob Hazel

### **Survived by**

devoted wife, Mary Crea; children, Jim Crea,  
Matt (Melissa) Crea and Michelle (Brian) Taply;  
grandchildren Mikaela, Ellie, Kenzie and Collin;  
sisters, Kathleen Crea and Noella (Mark) Buchmayer.

### **Preceded in Death by**

parents, Anthony and Shirley Crea; parents-in-law, Vincent  
James (Jim) and Betty Rian; niece, Heather  
Salisbury Frisone; nephew, Marc Nicholas (Nick) Salisbury;  
golden retrievers, Zach and Josh; grand-dog, Whiskey Crea.