



Thomas Sypien

September 25, 1955 - December 30, 2018

Thomas Sypien, age 63, of DeTour Village, Michigan, died December 30, 2018, at home with his family at his side. He was born September 25, 1955, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Chester Thomas and Nancy Yvonne (Corcoran) Sypien.

Thomas lived most of his life in the Grand Rapids/Greenville area of Michigan. He earned a Bachelor Degree from Grand Valley State University where he was a two time All American Wrestler. He was active in wrestling most of his life either wrestling himself or coaching young wrestlers. Thomas married Charlene Marie Stockwell on October 15, 1983, in a park in Cannonsburg, Michigan. While they raised their family in Greenville, Thomas worked security at Amway Corporate and as a steelworker. In 2015, they made DeTour their home.

Thomas was an avid reader. He enjoyed gardening and being outdoors. He walked many miles each day, enjoying the company of his dog and the quiet surroundings.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Charlene; daughter, Shay (Michael) Esslin of DeTour Village; son, Skyler (Megan) Sypien of Tokyo, Japan; grandchildren, Claire Nielsen, Keira Esslin, Kendall Esslin, Adrienne Sypien, Corbin Sypien, and Connor Sypien; sister, Kathy Sypien of Kalamazoo, Michigan; brothers,

Michael (Deborah) Sypien of Grand Rapids, Christopher (Heather) Sypien of Ada, Michigan, and Robert (Liz) Sypien of Muskegon, Michigan.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents and nephew, Rory Vander Lende.

A life celebration will be held in the Grand Rapids area in the spring or summer of 2019.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Sypien*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Thomas Sypien*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Thomas Sypien*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM

CS

“ *Friends and family,
Thank you so much for your kind words of support and great memories of Tom. He had a long and brave fight against such a horrible disease. His soul is at rest free, he is no longer trapped in a body he can't control or understand. I've been searching for a poem he wanted posted when he passed.
Sincerely,
Charlene*

Pasted below:

*Miss me- But let me go.
When I come to the end of the roads
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free,
Miss me a little- But not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared.
Miss me- But let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss me- But let me go.
Muscular Development Fitness and Health October 1993*

Char Sypien - January 22, 2019 at 02:17 PM

BR

“ Tom was a teammate of mine at GVSU. He was unbelievably talented. I saw his best career match that will be my memory of him forever!

Bill Roersma - January 09, 2019 at 05:47 PM

JS

“ Tom was an extremely talented athlete. He was an integral part of our 1976-77 team that placed 2nd in the Nation. I think he was very proud of having achieved both his goal of graduating from GVSU and competing in wrestling on the national stage. He was well respected in our wrestling community.

Jim Scott - January 09, 2019 at 02:14 PM

JH

“ Tommy and I wrestled together at GVSU in the early to mid-70s. He was a great teammate and friend. He was a unique guy who always gave it his all with a physical toughness that was rarely matched. One of my favorite Syp stories happened when one year I returned from the holidays with a big bruise on my side from tobogganing, something we were not supposed to risk doing as varsity wrestlers. Syp saw me wince while we were wrestling and asked what was wrong. I showed him the bruise and before I could move he punched me right on it with a smile and said, "That's what you get for breaking the rules." I will also never forget his victory in the conference finals in 1977 when he beat a guy who he had never beaten before when he knew we needed the win to clinch the team title. He just went for it with gusto, and for as many wrestling matches as I have seen in my 65 years, it is still a highlight. I was sad to lose touch with Tommy over the years, but I have always held him as a good friend in my heart. Condolences to his wife, kids, grand kids, and all who knew and loved him. Like I said earlier, he was a unique guy who once you met him always seem to occupy a corner of your mind. RIP my teammate and friend.

John Harris - January 09, 2019 at 10:55 AM

GC

“ My condolences to Tom's wife and children, to my old friend Kathy, his brothers and the rest of his family. I first met Tom at the start of the wrestling season in 1972. His attitude was infectious. I give Tom a lot of credit for the team's can do attitude that year. We became good friends and he made me feel like a member of his family. I moved away in 1977 and we eventually lost contact. Even though many years have gone by, Tom' name comes up several times each year when we talk about the good old days. He will be missed. May God be with him.

Giles Courtney - January 07, 2019 at 01:15 PM

WK

“ I am sorry to hear about Tom, what a nice guy and fun to be around all the years I knew him. At work and at the Shame. Char and the kids I'm really sorry! Will Keller

Will Keller - January 05, 2019 at 12:32 PM

TB

“ Sorry to here about this. Our prayers are with your family. He was a Good man and we had fun times at Amway & Cedar Point!

Thomas Bogerd - January 04, 2019 at 08:14 AM

KD

“ Uncle Tommy I cant say how you were a huge influence in my life. I love you and you are greatly missed. I will always remember the lessons you taught me in weight lifting, being happy, and being healthy You're amazing human being and you're greatly missed I love you forever and always .

Kimberley Nelson Dangerfield - January 03, 2019 at 08:43 PM



“ Goodbye Daddy. I'm not even going to try and write what you meant and will always mean to me online...just that you were the best daddy I could have asked for...not perfect, but perfect for me...I love you, and don't worry, we will be back together one day...

Shay Marie - January 03, 2019 at 10:32 AM

SS

“ Cousins, In my mind's eye, we are always young, and wherever we're together, it's home. Tommy, I miss you. Scot & Valerie Nelson

scot g nelson sr - January 03, 2019 at 10:22 AM



Well said Cousin Scot!

Kirk Leyndyke - January 04, 2019 at 07:14 AM

MH

“ *My heart goes out to Char and family. The most important memory I have of Tom is when I was 13yrs old and my parents took us to Michigan to see everyone and Tom came up to me at his parents house with the pool and said "behave those are my brothers'. Haha Tom you will be missed and Char and family he's still with you and keeping his watchful eye. Love you*

Michelle Hardin - January 03, 2019 at 09:07 AM

RH

“ *We remember when we first went to Michigan after Tom and Char were married. Tom welcomed us and made us feel at home. We went to his parents house and we remember the love he had for his family. We will miss Tom and his witty personality and his jovial nature. Our hearts go out to Char and family. Sending our love Tante Ruth and Onkel Hans*

Ruth & Hans - January 03, 2019 at 12:18 AM

MM

“ *Memories of Tommy. So many shared experiences that are going around in my mind. I met him shortly after moving to Grand Rapids. 6th Grade. Tommy was a shy kid when I met him. I think wrestling and weight lifting gave him a sense of purpose and self-confidence. He was gifted at both. He was always funny and fun to be around. He was such a good friend. He would do anything for you. He made me want to be worthy of his friendship. The world has lost a truly wonderful guy. I will miss him greatly.*

Mark Monahan - January 02, 2019 at 04:36 PM

DC

“ I was sad to hear of Tom's passing . He showed me how to properly lift weights many many years ago . He was a fun loving guy and will be missed. Char I hope you can ease your mind knowing he is watching over you and your family . Love you

Denise Christenson - January 02, 2019 at 03:01 PM

PF

“ Char and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Tom was a great friend in school and through the years and when Jim became ill with a brain illness Tom was at the hospital ready to give blood or do what ever he could to help his friend. He will always be remembered with love.

Jim and Paula Fillmore

Paula Fillmore - January 02, 2019 at 02:38 PM

JA

“ I am so saddened to hear of this. Tom, I'll always look back at our first meeting at a wrestling camp back in 1971 as a lesson. Never judge the size of the fight in a dog , by the size of the dog. Although I out weighted you by about 20lbs. , you were full of surprises. Years later after my discharge from the USMC we became great pals through our mutual friend Mark Monahan. The days in the gym and our shared lunches and beers were always events. Rest in Peace Pal.

Julian Arizola - January 02, 2019 at 01:23 PM

KS

“ I was fortunate to work just enough with Tom to know that he had a great sense of humor, and was always upbeat and positive. Tom was just a genuinely nice guy to be around. My condolences to his entire family.

Kyle Seeley - January 02, 2019 at 01:01 PM

TS

“ I met Tom the fall of 1974. My roommate Eddie Sypniewski had lived with two other wrestlers, Dan Van Heusen and Dave Izzo, so we all hung out together.

He was a fun guy and a solid man.

RIP

Thomas L Saxe - January 02, 2019 at 12:58 PM

BS

“ Tom was such a character when he was at Amway with us! Syp made us laugh and kept things interesting! He was not with us nearly long enough. My sincere condolences to his family.

Beth Setchfield - January 02, 2019 at 10:41 AM