



Tommy D. Gambrel

December 29, 1939 - June 2, 2026

Tommy D. Gambrel, 86, of Carmel, Indiana, peacefully passed on June 2, 2026 in the comfort of his home, surrounded by family. Tom was born December 29, 1939 in Mt. Carmel, Illinois to the late Jacob Henry and Gracie Jane (Doane) Gambrel. Tom was a graduate of Benjamin Bosse High School in Evansville. He received his undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Evansville and two master's degrees; one from Purdue University and another from Lehigh University. He was employed as an electrical engineer for Bell Labs followed by Hewlett-Packard, from which he retired. Tom proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1957-1961. Tom was a longtime member of Cornerstone Lutheran Church in Carmel. He was devoted to his church and was honored to help in any way, taking on roles such as Bible study instructor, lector, and usher. Tom was very active in his daily life and was regularly seen throughout his neighborhood running, biking, and walking. He loved meeting with and speaking to every person he encountered and always made it a point to remember their names (as well as the names of their children and pets). Visitation will be held on Friday, June 12, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. with service immediately following. Both the visitation and service will take place at Cornerstone Lutheran Church, 4850 East Main Street, Carmel, IN 46033.

Tom is survived by his children, Jennifer S. Cain (James), Lance R. Gambrel

(Kelly), Brian J. Gambrel (Stephanie), Derek M. Gambrel (Elexa), and Alissa A. Walker (Ben); sister-in-law, Barbara Gambrel; and 13 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, David Gambrel.

In lieu of flowers, Tom would be honored if you were to simply take a walk or spend some time outside, in his remembrance.

Final care and arrangements are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Memorial Gardens

9700 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone Lutheran Church Carmel
4850 E. Main St.
Carmel, IN 46033
(317) 814-4252
<http://www.cornerstonelutheran.church>

Funeral Service

JUN 12. 12:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone Lutheran Church Carmel
4850 E. Main St.
Carmel, IN 46033
(317) 814-4252
<http://www.cornerstonelutheran.church>

Tribute Wall

LS

“ Tom was a devoted member of our small group since 1991. He would arrive with a smile, a helping hand, Bible, wine, and a readiness to study God's Word. Thinking of our friendship, memories and of how you inspired us to exercise more and set the example even near the end when you were so sick. Rest in peace.
Linda and Dale Sporleder

Linda and Dale Sporleder - June 11 at 04:01 PM

RB

“ We have been members of Carmel Lutheran (now Cornerstone Lutheran) for 40+ years. I remember hearing Tom read scripture when I was a kid and it really impacted me. Whenever he read, I listened. A few years ago, I also became a scripture reader at CLC and Tom is directly responsible for inspiring me to do so.

He did not know that he had this impact on me until about 2 years ago, when my Dad told him. Tom and I developed a very cool friendship after that and his presence will be deeply missed. But I know where he is right now and I imagine he is quite happy to be with our Lord, perhaps reading scripture together :-)

*If i could say one thing to him it would be this:
Don't worry Tom, we will take it from here! I can only hope that our reading of scripture has the same impact that yours had.*

Robert Brown - June 09 at 06:16 PM

DS

Tom left a legacy of faith and service at CLC. I first got to know Tom when we traveled to Panama on a mission trip. Although he didn't care for the group bunk-in ;), he worked hard shoulder to shoulder with all 18 of us. After that he continued to build my respect as we served on the same usher team and served communion together. Tom never met a stranger and was always greeting visitors to CLC because his memory was so good of every member who normally worshiped at late traditional service. "Well done good and Faithful Servant." I will spend time thinking of you when I am often outside.

Dwight Schmidt

Dwight Schmidt - June 09 at 11:15 PM

HM

“*Tom was a joy to know. His consistent presence and calm voice (as a reader) at church on Sundays was a blessing and role model to countless people. I especially enjoyed getting to serve alongside him these past few years. Rest in the peace of our Lord and Savior, Tom. I hope you are dancing to polka music in heaven!*”



Hannah L Maxey - June 09 at 04:25 PM

BS

“*We met Tom as we walked our Shih Tzu, Keebler, in the neighborhood. Keebler adored Tom and he would always stop his walk or biking to talk to her. So many times she would pull me to his door and he would invite her in to see his cats. Those are precious memories and a testament to his joy of life. I so wanted to go to his service but I have important medical appointments at that exact time. Rest in peace Friend and I will see you again some day. 🙏❤️*”
Becky and Rick Shewmake

Becky Shewmake - June 05 at 10:50 AM

NC

I will miss seeing Tom ride and walk in the neighborhood. I'd see him regularly when I was doing yard work. He would always tell me that I was doing a good job. My dog loved to bark at Tom. He'll miss him too. Rest in peace Tom.

Natalie Chambers - June 10 at 12:46 PM

HG

“ Holly and I were Tom's next door neighbors. When we moved into the neighborhood 10 years ago, Tom was one of the first to come over and greet us. He told us about his church, Cornerstone Lutheran, and invited us to attend. The conversation was winding down and we were walking away when Tom called us back and said, "One more thing - Lutherans go to heaven."

Since then we have joined Cornerstone and find great comfort in knowing that all our loved ones who have passed on are enjoying the blessings of eternity. We'll miss you, Tom. Howard & Holly Green

Howard Green - June 04 at 08:27 PM

RU

“ Tommy, you stand relieved from your post. A job well done fellow veteran. America thanks you for your service to our country in the defense of freedom. The final volley has sounded and taps is about to begin, ending a successful career as a nation's defender. Farewell fellow veteran.

Robert J. Miklas, USN - June 04 at 07:22 PM

BS

Tom I enjoyed our talks as you did your daily walk around the lake. You were such a gentleman with lots of spunk and positive energy. It was fun when we had Easter here with our annual Easter Egg hunt and no one was younger than 70!! Happy Heaven dear friend!!

bev Starbuck - June 04 at 09:29 PM