



## Thomas J. Ropel Jr.

August 16, 1949 - May 7, 2015

Thomas J. Ropel, Jr, 65, passed away Thursday evening, May 7th, 2015 at his home in Benton.

Tom was born on August 16, 1949, to parents Thomas J. Ropel, Sr, and Arlene B. Ropel in Benton.

Tom is survived by his mother, Arlene, brothers James Ropel and Stephen Ropel. Also surviving is his son Timothy A. Ropel and son Thomas J. Ropel, III with grandsons Preston T. Ropel and Landon T. Ropel, living in California.

Tom was well-known in Northeastern Pennsylvania in the mid to late 1960's for his outstanding pitching and hitting performances as a member of the Benton Tigers High School baseball team. A dominant southpaw, Tom recorded a record of 28-3 during his high school tenure, along with several no-hitters and one-hit ball games in the Tri-County and America Legion baseball leagues. In 1967, he was granted a full scholarship to Michigan State University, where played next to the likes of Steve Garvey, and coach Danny Litwhiler.

Tom was also a standout in the Benton Rural Softball league in the 1980's, playing for Friendly Tavern and Gordon's Insurance softball teams. He created quite a few fun memories and made friends for life from the experiences in

this league.

Tom finished up his college with a Bachelors degree in Business from Bloomsburg State College in 1973, then become a production scheduler at the Benton Foundry for several years until 1988. In 2012, he finished out his career and began retirement after working for Malischak Brothers Construction Company Nanticoke. He truly enjoyed retirement for the past three years cutting wood, keeping eyes out for a monster buck, and looking after his dear mother, Arlene.

Tom was an avid hunter, and loved having the Ropel family congregate to Benton for deer season every weekend after Thanksgiving. He had great successes over the years with hunting, especially buck season in 2012 when he downed an 8-point buck at 325 yards.

Tom always displayed a sense of humor, was a practical joker at times and loved to keep it light and make people laugh. He was a family man that always spoke highly of his brothers, Steve and Jim. He also was involved with his son Tim, when he excelled at high school soccer, playing for Dallas. Most recently, he was following the little league seasons of his grandsons, Preston (a southpaw just like him) and Landon.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Thomas J. Ropel, Sr, and grandparents, Frank Ropel, Anna Ropel, Florence Rhone, and Warren O. Schultz.

Friends and relatives are invited to the McMichael Funeral Home Inc., 4394 Red Rock Road, Benton for a viewing on Monday, May the 11th from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Funeral services will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

The family will provide flowers. The family is requesting that donations be

made to the American Cancer Society, Columbia County Unit, 1948 E. Third St., Williamsport, PA 17701 or the American Heart Association, 1704 Warren Ave., Williamsport, PA 17701.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 11. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

McMichael Funeral Home, Inc.  
4394 Red Rock Rd.  
S.R. 487  
Benton, PA 17814  
(570) 204-0858  
info@mcmichaelfuneralhome.com

## Service

MAY 11. 6:30 PM (ET)

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S.R. 487  
Benton, PA 17814  
(570) 204-0858  
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# Tribute Wall

BO

“ To the Ropel Family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time. I have many good memories of going to school with Tom, and watching him play soft ball on Gordon Ins. team . Tom always spoke highly of his children and grand children every time I had the chance to speak to him. Tom will be missed.



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**Bonnie(Houseweart)Young** - May 12, 2015 at 09:51 AM

GG

“ So sorry for your loss. He'll be pitching for the big leagues in the sky now. We enjoyed having Tom on our Gordon Ins. Softball team, not only for his expertise, but for his sportsmanship. Tom was always upbeat and fun to be with at the post game "analysis." RIP Tom!

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**Gordy and Joyce Gordon** - May 12, 2015 at 07:39 AM

JC

“ To the Ropel Family,  
  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. If we can do anything for you let us know.

*Tommy will be missed, remember the good times.*

*He is another angel watching over your families.*

*Love, Cullison Family*

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**judy cullison** - May 11, 2015 at 11:43 AM

JS

“ To the Ropel Family,  
Our most sincere condolences to you on the passing Tom. We all have fond memories of Tom when he worked on my father and grandfathers farm, helping with the animals, and chores, helping Dad put our toys together Christmas Eve and stopping by to see us on Christmas Day. My father has often shared stories of Tom's baseball career and was fortunate to play along side him in the slow pitch softball league. Tom touched our lives and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Roy Evarts, Julie Evarts-Conner and Janet Evarts-Snead*

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**Janet Snead** - May 10, 2015 at 09:26 PM

BG

“ I send my sincere condolences to Tom's family. Whenever I spoke with Tom he was always eager to talk about his sons and grandsons. He was very proud of his boys.  
I have many good memories of Tom competing in the athletic arena. He was a gifted baseball player, but a very good all around athlete. I know the positive memories of Tom will help you get through this very difficult time.....God Bless  
*Bill Garrison*

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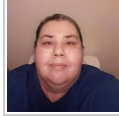
**Bill Garrison** - May 10, 2015 at 11:18 AM

PO

*I remember all the great times we all had together as kids. Tommy was older than me but I remember the good times when I spent the summer at Grammy Rhone's. As soon as I found out he was sick I began to pray. He was a good Dad as well as a good son to Aunt Arlene and Uncle Tom. I pray for everyone of you that the God we serve will give you all comfort and peace in this difficult time and to all of us who love Tommy. I believe with all my heart that he is in Heaven now with his Dad and all the family who went home before him We love you Tommy and you will be greatly missed. God bless.*

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**Patty Palmer Davila Ocasio** - May 11, 2015 at 11:45 AM



*our thoughts and prayers be with you Ropel Family, I am so sorry for your loss. god bless you all. may he r.i.p. God speed Mr Ropel..*

*hugs and prayers rebecca thomas esser*

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**Becca Esser** - May 27, 2015 at 07:58 PM