



## Thomas O. Michels

December 29, 1924 - July 26, 2020

Thomas Owen Michels, age 95, of Kearney, passed away, Sunday, July 26, 2020 at his home. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM, Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at the Curtis Cemetery in Curtis, Nebraska. There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to Ascera Care Hospice in Kearney.

Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services of Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Tom was born December 29, 1924 in Chicago, Illinois to Thomas and Gertrude (Lennig) Michels. He was a focused and driven man, graduating from High School early and going on to graduating from Engineering School. He then entered the United States Army Air Corps, serving as a bomb site specialist during WWII. After the war, he then went on to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois on the G.I. Bill. Intrigued by the many attributes of the state of Nebraska, Tom moved to Lincoln to obtain yet another degree at UNL. He worked as an environmental engineer for the state of Nebraska, and also worked as a civil and electrical engineer in earlier years. On August 15, 1953 he married Mercedes Westfall in Curtis, Nebraska.

Tom was gifted with a high aptitude in mathematics and engineering. He loved to learn and exercised his mind regularly. The organizations he served in were, The American Red Cross, The United Way, The American Public Works Association, and The National Society of Professional Engineers.

He was also gifted with a great ear for music and was a talented clarinet player. After initially learning the clarinet, he went on to play several other instruments ending with his favorite, the piano. He played the piano by ear, writing down the chord he heard in his head, then letting his fingers fly. He loved playing music from his generation through his dad's generation, playing at the local hospitals and nursing homes.

The family feels very blessed to grow up in a home full of music, and Tom will be sorely missed.

Survivors include his wife, Mercedes Michels of Kearney; two daughters, Helen (Paul) Lange and Kelly (William) Schellhase both of Kearney; son, Alan (Margaret) Michels of Payson, Arizona; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a brother, John Michels of West Union, West Virginia.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, and both sisters, Marjorie Urban and Dorothy Cheesman.

# Cemetery Details

## Curtis Cemetery

Road 391  
Curtis, NE 69025

# Previous Events

## Graveside

JUL **28**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Curtis Cemetery  
Road 391  
Curtis, NE 69025

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas O. Michels*

---

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Tom was my first supervisor when I was hired to work for the State of Nebraska in 1990. Tom was a fantastic mentor and a good friend for many years. I miss the conversations I used to have with him. I pray for God's comfort in your lives, to give you peace with Tom's passing. May the Love of Jesus Christ fill your hearts and homes.*

*Doug Woodbeck*

---

**Doug Woodbeck** - April 01, 2021 at 09:14 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss Kelly and Bud! You had wonderful parents! I loved them very much!*

*Connie*

---

**Connie L. Beans** - August 15, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ *Just saw Kerri's post. I am so sorry for your loss. Such an amazing man with so many talents. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*  
*Linda Crandall*

---

**Linda Crandall** - August 02, 2020 at 11:00 PM

TW

“ Tom was our neighbor on 7th Avenue and an extremely formative influence in my early teen years as I helped him work on his house and took an electrical course from him. I lost contact with him after they moved away and I joined the Navy but I remember him, Mercedes, and Helen with fondness. My condolences go out to his family -- he was an amazing person and I know he'll be missed. --  
Tom Wilson

---

**Thomas Wilson** - July 29, 2020 at 04:14 PM

MS

“ Tom will be missed. I had the pleasure of knowing Tom when I was a young engineer in the 1980's and 1990's. He was always so helpful and gave me much needed guidance. I am grateful for knowing Tom.

*The last time I saw Tom is was playing in the Hastings Good Samaritan Parade. He did enjoy the music.*

---

**Marty Stange** - July 29, 2020 at 08:49 AM

TW

“ My growing up years are full of Tom lighting up our living room when he walked in and struck up tunes that still live in my memory! Please know that I am with you in spirit and support: Helen, Kelly, Bud and your families and of course our much loved Mercedes! Blessings and virtual hugs on you all!

---

**Terry Yost Westing** - July 28, 2020 at 06:57 PM

SH

“ My prayers are with his family during this time. I am grateful to have had him as a neighbor.

---

**Shana** - July 28, 2020 at 01:10 PM