



## Thomas Gehlhausen

November 12, 1933 - November 14, 2019

There's a little less laughter and love in the world today.

Tom Gehlhausen loved to laugh, and more importantly, he loved making other people laugh. Constantly chatting with everyone he met, he was a friend to waitresses, painters, and priests. He always had one more joke to tell.

Tom loved Indiana. Born in Evansville on November 12, 1933, he graduated from Reitz Memorial High School and later enrolled at the University of Evansville, majoring in business.

He left school to enlist in the Navy, serving as a quartermaster aboard the USS Chukawan during the Korean War. One weekend while stationed in Newport, Rhode Island, a friend introduced Tom to Maxine Howe, another Hoosier, who was visiting her Navy brother in the same apartments.

Tom loved Maxine, his wife of 63 years. They married in 1956 and then moved back to Evansville after his honorable discharge. Tom began working for the family business Gehlhausen Bros. Paint Company, but also found time to play semi-pro baseball, catching for the Jasper Reds. Tom later held a number of sales and management positions with companies throughout the Midwest.

Tom loved baseball, especially coaching Little League and Babe Ruth

baseball teams in Bloomington. Tom's success and spirit on the diamond earned him a compliment from former IU basketball coach Bobby Knight, whose son Timmy was coached by Gehlhausen. Coach Knight called Tom "one of the best baseball coaches" he'd ever seen.

Tom loved his family, especially spending time with everyone. He brought them along on sales calls throughout central Indiana. He attended hundreds of his children's and grandchildren's ball games, sports camps, swim meets, and dance recitals. He would even sit patiently while his five-year-old granddaughter styled his hair at the "beauty shop."

Tom loved to tease the people he loved the most, giving them funny nicknames and sharing a big laugh.

Tom and his laughter left this world on November 14, 2019 at IU Health Bloomington Hospital after a prolonged illness. His family misses him dearly, but they have plenty of memories, photos, and digital phone messages to remind them of his laugh and fun-loving personality.

He is preceded in death by his father Roman F. Gehlhausen and mother Nellie Marie (Day) Gehlhausen, both of Evansville.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years Maxine Mary (Howe) Gehlhausen of Bloomington, daughters Linda Marie Fenoglio (Chris) of Nashville, Tenn. and Susan Elizabeth Blackwell (Larry) of Bloomington, sons Thomas Lee Gehlhausen Jr. (Beth) of Fishers and Randy Brian Gehlhausen (Lori) of Bloomington, one cousin David Michael Gehlhausen of Celebration, Fla., 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts in Tom's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation of Indiana at [www.hoosier.org](http://www.hoosier.org)

[w.hvafofindiana.org](http://w.hvafofindiana.org).

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling private arrangements for the Gehlhausen family.

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends to appreciate at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ *Debbie W. purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Thomas Gehlhausen.*



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**Debbie W.** - November 20, 2019 at 12:00 PM

DW

“ *I just learned of Tom's passing. My heart aches for you and your family. I'll never forget Tom's generosity and graciousness. He was always so kind to me.*

*Debbie Waymire*

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**Debbie Waymire** - November 20, 2019 at 09:14 AM

CC

“ *I knew the Gehlhausen family, Susan, through my sister Phyllis but got to know Tom and Maxine through St John's church years later. Tom always had a smile on his face and a nice thing to say about everyone! He will be missed. So sorry for your loss! Christine Conklin*

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**Christine Conklin** - November 19, 2019 at 03:27 PM

RN

“ *Other than my Dad, Coach Gehlhausen and Coach Burrin were the two mosy important men for me growing up. Yes he was hard on you, but only when you needed to hear it to become better, So, Thank you Coach and God speed sir. Much love and Respect from someone for who you made a huge difference.*

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**Rusty Nunn** - November 19, 2019 at 01:45 PM

FF

“ *From Your National Salvage Family purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Thomas Gehlhausen.*



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**From Your National Salvage Family** - November 19, 2019 at 09:49 AM

“ *My Gramps was the greatest. He was truly my best friend and someone I always looked up too with admiration. He was a genius when it came to selling. He knew how to get the best out of you, and he genuinely cared about and loved everyone he came across. He always put his family first and up until a couple of days ago was always there when I needed to talk.*

*My Papaw had a knack for always knowing how to make you laugh at just the right time. You could have the worst day and when he walked in the room all your problems would go away. He always listened when others wouldn't and he was loyal. He never judged or ridiculed me when I made a mistake. He taught me how to live by living well. His door was always open to anyone in need and it's because of him I get such joy in helping and giving to others.*

*Gramps made mistakes and he wasn't perfect but he never pretended to be. In fact Papaw was the first to always admit his faults and apologize.*

*I am extremely fortunate to have had my Gramps in my life for as long as I did. He knew how to build you up and make you feel like you were the only one in the room that mattered. I don't believe there was ever a time in my life when he didn't tell me he loved me or was so proud of the man I'd become. I'm grateful he got to meet my wife Joie and his two great granddaughters Rae & Rhenn. Im so thankful I came home in the summer of 2016. I think I spent about every extra minute I had with him. While others loved seeing me down he knew it was only a matter of time before I would get back on my feet. He always told me to keep my head up and remember who I was named after (Roman Gehlhausen).*

*I didn't get to be there when he passed away and I won't be able to get home to say goodbye, but he knows how much I love him. It's because of him that my life is on track. It's because of him that I get up everyday thankful for what I have. I could never thank him enough for all the love and knowledge he gave me, but I can keep*

*his memory alive by being the best father, husband and man I can be. I love you gramps and today I felt at peace knowing your in heaven on my side. I will see you again someday Gramps. Until then please keep an eye on my beautiful girls. Please keep them safe!*

*I love you ALWAYS*

*Tyler Roman Blackwell*

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**Tyler Blackwell** - November 19, 2019 at 02:34 AM

JF

“ So many hours in the dugout with Tom. He had a nickname for everyone. Joey wanted his head shaved when he was 6 years old. Tom called him “cue ball” for life. Jordan tried pitching and Tom told me he couldn’t pitch a strike and that might be a good thing. Also, he adored my daughters and loved them dearly. But my best memory is Babe Ruth baseball at South. My best friend played for Tom. And they fought every game. I am not sure who learned more from that encounter. But Tom made Steve Moss a better person. Neither Tom or Steve would acknowledge that fact. But I know better. RIP Tom. You made a difference for many kids. We should all aspire to be someone to make a difference in a young persons life.

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**joe forney** - November 18, 2019 at 06:28 PM

JK

“ Tom was a great friend and spirit. We enjoyed his company and wit. We will miss him. John

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**John W Kirtland** - November 18, 2019 at 11:31 AM

KC

“ *Randy and family*

*So sorry to hear of your loss, thoughts and prayers to all.*

*Kimberly Carson*

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**kimberly carson** - November 18, 2019 at 12:29 AM

CE

“ *We will miss your wonderful sense of humor and your ability to talk to anyone. You raised a wonderful family and have much to be proud of. Love, Christy ( niece)*

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**Christy Ewing** - November 17, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ *What a gregarious, outgoing personality! So sorry for your loss.*



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**Julie Davis** - November 17, 2019 at 09:53 AM

JC

“ *My prayers to all the Gehlhausen family. His love for others & fun spirit at the baseball diamonds were something many, like myself, will always remember. He was a great coach, great man, and, a person that everyone enjoyed being around to chat, talk sports (baseball), and just have fun. He made a lasting impression on me, especially during my Little League & Babe Ruth baseball days years ago. Take care. Jeff Campbell.*

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**Jeff Campbell** - November 16, 2019 at 10:24 PM