



Thomas "Big Man" Schaaf

September 11, 1962 - January 5, 2026

THOMAS J. SCHAAF
Saginaw Twp., Michigan

Tom "Big Man" Schaaf passed away unexpectedly on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the age of 63 years. Thomas Joseph Schaaf was born on September 11, 1962, in Hancock, Michigan. Tom is survived by his brothers, Gerry Schaaf and Larry Schaaf and his wife Dana; Sister-in-law, Cheryl Schaaf; his nieces and nephews, Mandy Schaaf and their partner Corbett, Amy Bishop, Sarah (Bishop) Charbonneau and her wife Nikki, Hope (Bishop) Pierce and her husband Anthony, Ryan Bishop, Chad Bishop and his wife Sabrina, Jeremy Ross and his wife Courtney, Kristen Ross, Adam Schaaf and his wife Alyssa, Michael Schaaf and his wife Casey, Allison Schaaf and her partner Erik.

Tom was predeceased by his father, Ronald Schaaf Sr., his mother, Marilyn Schaaf, his sister Patti (Schaaf) Bishop, his brothers, Bob and Ron Schaaf, his niece, Jessica Bishop and his nephew, Tony Ross.

Tom spent most of his life working as a bouncer in Old Town Saginaw. He touched the lives of many with his kindness and strength, always looking out for others and making sure everyone felt safe. In his later years, he found a home at a little place called The Big Ugly Fish, where he became a familiar and beloved face to so many in the community.

In accordance with Tom's wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends are welcome to visit with the family for a memorial gathering for "Big Man" at the Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc. 1218 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, on Sunday, January 18, 2026, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. The gathering will then move to the Big Ugly Fish Tavern 1418 State St., Saginaw, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. to share more stories of Tom. The family requests that you also share your memories and sympathies of Tom on his memorial website at WakemanFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN 18. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
wakemanfh@charter.net

Memorial Gathering

JAN 18. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Big Ugly Fish Tavern
1418 State St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

Tribute Wall



“ *RIP Big Man! I remember him being the bouncer at the Hamilton St Pub in the mid 80's.Paul*

Paul Evon - January 19 at 04:14 PM

MF

“ *Maria M. Fairbanks sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Big Man" Schaaf*



Maria M. Fairbanks - January 18 at 12:24 PM

MF

R.I.P BIG MAN, MANY GOOD MEMORIES AND MY CONDOLENCES TO THE ENTIRE FAMILY. LOVE YA BUDDY 🥺 GOD BLESS YOU 🙏
❤️

Maria M. Fairbanks - January 18 at 12:29 PM

GB

“ *So many hearts he touched .Always had our backs ..Thank you BIG MAN ..Gary B*



Gary Bishop - January 15 at 01:48 PM

TI

“ *I'm right behind you Big's*

Tim - January 14 at 01:25 PM

CT

“ Cecilia Thomas lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Big Man" Schaaf



Cecilia Thomas - January 14 at 10:30 AM

DC

“ Douglas C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Big Man" Schaaf.

Douglas C. - January 13 at 09:40 PM

JJ

“ Jimbo lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Big Man" Schaaf



Jimbo - January 12 at 07:09 AM

BE

“ You will be missed, Big Man RIP 🙏 Thanks for the hugs and keeping us safe! ❤️

Becky - January 10 at 08:47 PM

BA

“ Becky A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas "Big Man" Schaaf.

Becky A. - January 10 at 08:43 PM

HB

“ *My sympathies to the family.*

Holly (Prudhomme) Bloedel



Holly Bloedel - January 10 at 08:05 PM

CB

“ *Fly high my Friend* 🤍



Carol A Behmlander - January 10 at 08:30 AM

JS

“ *Joan Stennett lit a candle in memory of
Thomas "Big Man" Schaaf*



Joan Stennett - January 10 at 12:49 AM

CG

“ *Our condolences to the families.
To me, big man was always a cool headed gentle giant. He will
always be remembered.* 🙏❤️

C. Gomez - January 09 at 08:26 PM

KE

“ Nice guy, gentle giant, and a good friend to all he knew. U will be missed my friend!

kelly edlinger - January 09 at 07:06 PM