



## Thomas M. Matecki

Thomas M. Matecki, 80, of Memory Gardens at Tanglewood in Jamestown, formerly of Falconer, NY and Mayville, NY passed away on September 13, 2016 in WCA Hospital with family by his side.

Tom was born on July 20, 1936 in Salamanca, NY where he grew up and graduated from Salamanca High School in 1954. Upon graduation, Tom enlisted in the US Army where he served for 2 years in the Artillery Division at Fort Bliss, TX. While there he qualified to shoot and travel with the 4th Army Rifle Team as a High Master. Upon completing his 2 year commitment, he followed his athletic passion and attended baseball training camp in Florida and joined the Florida State Baseball League in Gainesville as a left handed pitcher. He returned home and continued his baseball career playing in Olean, NY and was signed by Paul Owens to play for the Olean Oilers, which was the minor league baseball team affiliated with the Philadelphia Phillies. Owens eventually became the general manager/manager of the MLB Phillies and led them to the World Series and won it in 1980.

After working for the B&O Railroad for 9 years, Tom began his 27 year career with the NY State Police in 1964. He continued shooting as a hobby and loved competitive shooting, traveling the Northeastern and Midwestern states of the US and also Canada taking 1st place in numerous matches and also became the NYS Indoor Pistol Champion in 1974. During his career with the State Police, Tom was called on and responded to the Attica State Prison riots where his detail was to go through each jail cell and clear them of weapons and other contraband. In 1976, he was assigned to Plattsburgh, NY to provide protection for the Olympians who were training for the upcoming Summer Olympics in Montreal, Quebec. Tom was also a substitute bus driver for Salamanca and Falconer schools and went on to drive for Jamestown Community College so he and his wife, Carol could travel with the JCC team to watch his daughter play college basketball. He took great pride in his children's athletics and was at every one of their games, even if it meant parking the troop car on the side of the highway to watch their baseball/softball games.

The many clubs and organizations Tom was affiliated with included a lifetime membership of the NRA, Holy Cross Athletic Club in Salamanca, War Vets Recreation, Falconer Moose #2301, Eagles #1203, Frewsburg American Legion – Samuel Derby Post 556, Mayville American Legion – William L Travis Post 493, and the Fraternal Order of Retired Troopers. He enjoyed shooting, hunting, golfing, and socializing at the various clubs. He was a former member of the Jamestown Rifle & Pistol Club and the Busti Trap Club.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Florence Malanowski Matecki, who passed away in 1967 and 1997, respectively. He is survived by his daughters Michele (Brian) Muirhead of Jamestown, NY and Terri Wappat (Joshua Schupp) of Mayville, NY, his son Daniel Matecki of Bemus Point, NY, his grandchildren Andrea (Brian Gunnell) and Reid Matecki, Jenavin, Braydyn and Corinne Wappat, a brother Robert Matecki and his children Denise (Gary) Newark and Robert (Cindy) Matecki, his former wife Carol Brewer and a special friend Mary Perdue.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 on Saturday, September 17 in the Falconer Funeral Home. Rev. Darrell G. Duffy pastor of St. James Catholic Church will officiate. Friends will be received from 4-7 on Friday, September 16 and also 1 hour prior to the funeral service on Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the Alzheimer's Association or The Police Benevolent Association of the New York State Troopers, Inc. in Thomas' name.