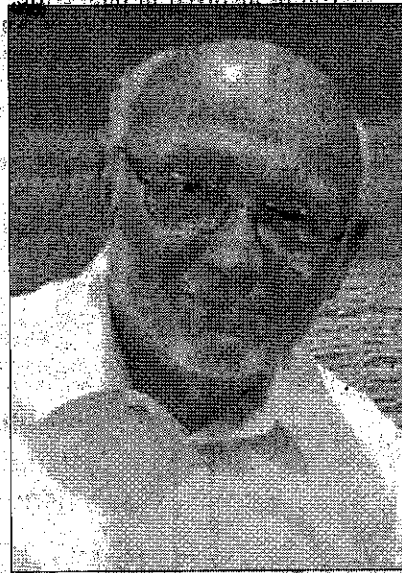


64-R

1-28-2021

Thomas Roy Shaner

August 1, 1935 - December 23, 2020



Thomas Shaner passed away at home in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, with Hospice Care on December 23, 2020, at the age of 85. At his side were his wife, Carol J. (Lang) Shaner, son, Joel Kenneth Shaner and daughter, Suzanne Carol (Shaner) D'Ambrosio. Tom's family of 17 also includes Joel's wife, Beth, their children, Evan (Carla) Shaner, Ryan and Katie, great-grandchildren, Olive and Henry Shaner, Suzanne's husband Joseph D'Ambrosio, Thomas (Caitlin) D'Ambrosio, Jonathan, Rosemary and Maria. A favorite tradition over Thanksgiving was spending a long weekend at Canadian

Lakes, Michigan. This year, on Tom's birthday, plans are to have a family gathering and celebrate Tom's life.

Tom graduated from Kittanning, Pennsylvania, High School in 1953. He was the son of Kenneth and Ina Shaner. This is where he began his life-long study and participation in music. During these years, he played in the Kittanning Firemen's Band. He was accepted at Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio, and studied music education in order to teach in the public schools. Graduating in 1957, he accepted a position at the Van Dyke Public Schools in Warren, Michigan, where he began the instrumental music program in the ten elementary schools. At this time, he continued his studies at Wayne State University and obtained a Master's Degree in Music Education. Dedicated to working with students in their musical journey, he followed them on to Van Dyke Lincoln Junior High School and on to Lincoln High School. Many of these students were under his tutelage for six or more years. Because of his rapport with these young musicians, he not only taught them the skills of music performance but served as a father-figure, counselor, mentor and friend.

Besides teaching, he served as Fine Arts Coordinator at Lincoln and helped in the formation and operation of community bands and orchestras where he performed for many years at this level. One of these was the Motor City Brass Band which he enjoyed very much. He served Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association in many capacities and enjoyed working as an adjudicator at band, solo and ensemble festivals. He was an elected member of the American School Band and Orchestra Association. Highlighting his career was being selected as Michigan's Band Teacher of the Year.

Tom married Carol, a 1952 graduate of Grinnell High School, in 1957, and moved to Michigan where she taught music in the St. Clair Shores Schools. Their children were born here and also chose music as a profession. Tom loved to play his trumpet, enjoyed dogs, travel and participation in church. He served as an Elder, teacher, chaired many committees and directed choir.

Retiring in 1997 after 40 years, Tom and Carol stayed in their home of 63 years where they often saw former students in the malls or restaurants. A frequent comment from them was one they all remembered: "If you are early, you're on time. If you are on time, you're late."