



## Terry "Ty" G. Tanner

September 19, 1948 - June 26, 2020

Terry G. Tanner

September 19, 1948 – June 26, 2020

Terry G. Tanner (Ty) passed away Friday, June 26, 2020, at Agrace HospiceCare in Madison, WI surrounded by his family. He was the second of five children born to William and Maxine Anderson Tanner. He was raised in Richland Center, attending his first two years of high school there before moving to Basswood and attending the last two years of high school in Muscoda where he was later inducted into the Riverdale Wrestling Hall of Fame. After graduating in 1966, he attended UW-La Crosse for a year and a half. At that time, due to a lack of funds, he was drafted into the Army, leaving for induction in Milwaukee on Valentine's Day, 1968. He received basic training at Fort Campbell, KY and advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, LA. He was sent to Vietnam in July of 1968 where he spent the next 366 days. He was the "gunner" which means he carried the M60 machine gun for his unit. He returned home and was stationed in Colorado Springs. He returned to Richland County to marry his high school sweetheart, Sharon Melby, on September 21, 1969. They lived in Colorado Springs until his discharge in January 1970.

At that time they moved to LaCrosse where Ty finished his general studies and then enrolled in the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy program. He

graduated in 1974 and worked at a pharmacy in Reedsburg. Their first child, Luke, was born in 1976. In 1978, Ty and Sharon purchased the Nalepinski store in Muscoda and established the Tanner Pharmacy. Their two daughters, Emily and Hannah were born while they occupied the living quarters above the store. Ty felt a sense of pride in bringing back a pharmacy to the village of Muscoda. They were in business and in the Muscoda Chamber of Commerce for 25 years. Ty also served his community as a member of the Lions Club, the American Legion and a volunteer for the Muscoda Fire Department.

Ty's interests were many and varied. He put up a windmill, raised sheep, had a mule and beehives. He was a very talented chainsaw woodcarver. He donated many of his creations to the community. His works are cherished by those lucky enough to have received one. After his family, he loved the outdoors in any weather or setting, but perhaps the river was his favorite. He was a serious fisherman who fished hard. He shared his knowledge of the water and the woods with his children and anyone who needed it. His interests led him to acquire a Hovercraft, even performing a rescue with it. Ty was a gentle soul who spoke with a low, soothing tone. It had a very calming effect on those listening to him.

Ty was honorably discharged in 1970, but the war did not end for him. He carried the images and sounds of Vietnam with him for the rest of his life. Agent Orange contributed to his health problems. In September of 2019 he went on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., accompanied by his daughter, Emily. It was a very full, tiring day but meant so much to him. The welcome home he and his fellow veterans received was long overdue.

Ty received many medals and commendations, the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and Soldiers Medal for Heroism to name a few. He rarely spoke of them or his experiences in Vietnam.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, son Luke (wife Angela, granddaughters Freya and Finlee, grandson Clay), daughters Emily (fiancé John), Hannah (fiancé Brian) and sister Cindy Knoble. He is further survived by many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Ty was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Robert and Richard and sister Sandy Bailey.

Toward the end of his life, Ty wrote the following:

“People who knew me,  
Well I finally took the trip. I won't cry and you shouldn't either. My life was great. I spent fifty years of my life with Sharon nee Melby raising three children Luke, Emily and Hannah who always made me proud. “

Due to COVID-19 a Celebration of Life will be held at the Tanner home in Gotham at a later date. The Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center assisted the family with arrangements. [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ I was lucky enough to work with Ty and had such a good time with him. I was fortunate to receive one of his chainsaw bear figures. I still have it and will cherish it. Rest in peace friend.

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**Lonna Munson** - July 29, 2020 at 06:28 PM

SJ

“ My sympathies to all of Terry's family. I was in the class at MHS with his brother Dick. I think Terry, by himself, improved the W-L record of the Muscoda wrestling team by about 400%! As I told my wife tonite when I learned of Terry's passing, he was the all American "boy next door." He was athletic, handsome, intelligent, but most of all, he was just a really nice guy, I know my folks liked when he'd stop in to ask to go fishing down on Kendall Lake. They appreciated the respect he showed them and his willingness to "shoot the breeze" with a couple of old people. The world needs more people like him. Again, my sympathies---

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**Samuel Jonas** - July 16, 2020 at 11:47 PM

TJ

“ What a memorable statement he contributed; we hope your good memories carry you through this sad time. Pat and Tom Jonas, New Richmond, WI

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**Tom and Pat Jonas** - July 16, 2020 at 12:31 PM

TF

“ The volunteers, flight team and board of Badger Honor Flight mourn the loss of their hero, Terry Tanner. We are thankful for his military service and proud to have served him on his trip to Washington, D.C. on September 7, 2019.

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**Tammi Alexander, Badger Honor Flight** - July 14, 2020 at 10:08 PM

BJ

“ 🙏❤️ *Our Sympathy to the Family.*

Barb Jones - July 11, 2020 at 09:19 AM

BJ

“ *Barb Jones lit a candle in memory of Terry "Ty" G. Tanner*



Barb Jones - July 11, 2020 at 09:16 AM

ST

*Thank you Barb. Ty is not in pain anymore and that is what we are so grateful for, but he will be missed.*

Sharon Tanner - July 13, 2020 at 12:43 PM

DH

“ *My sympathy goes out for the Tanner family. Terry was a person that I held in high regard as do all the people I talk to. Thoughts and prayers as you go thru this hard time.*

Dwayne Hiltbrand - July 09, 2020 at 11:27 AM

ST

*Thank you Dwayne. He was a very special guy and will be missed. He is not suffering anymore and we are thankful for that.*

Sharon Tanner - July 13, 2020 at 12:45 PM

CS

“ Dear Sharon @ Family,  
Sending warm sympathy in the loss of your  
Dear Husband, Father, & Grandfather. It is  
wonderful you had so many years of married  
life together. Your former place of business  
and home looks so sad on the main street of Muscoda. It was nice  
you were able to have a business there in former years helping  
folks. Special thanks to your loved one in the service of his Country  
and what you had to endure due to things that happen in military  
service. Thanks for helping to preserve our freedom in this land.  
May the special memories that you each have help to ease the  
sorrow. It has been a LONG time since we have met Sharon. I recall  
Terry in high school days.



Warmly,  
Charleen

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**Charleen M Studnicka** - July 06, 2020 at 10:44 PM

ST

Charleen it has been a long time. Thank you for your kinds words. The family has many good memories to get us through these sad times. He will be greatly missed.

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**Sharon Tanner** - July 08, 2020 at 10:47 PM

JD

“ I recently saw this online. Sharon, you may not remember me but we lived up the road from you in Reedsburg back in the 70's and 80's. We used to get together and I used to fish with Terry and worked at the clinic with him. I know exactly what you are going through. My wife, Linda, died at Agrace Hospice in Fitchburg June 23, 2020. I wish we would have known you were there. Sharon, you and your family have my deepest sympathy. Terry was a wonderful man and past friend.

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**Jim Damos** - July 06, 2020 at 12:39 AM

ST

*Hi Jim My sincere sympathies to you and your family. Ty was in the Lancaster nursing home for a year and the last 3 months we could not even visit him. Agrace was a godsend for all of us to be able to hug him. He lost his speech a month or so ago but he knew we were there. It is very difficult to lose your mate but Ty had lost his quality of life and all of us told him it was time for him to let go. He fought so hard but couldn't win this one. Take Care and thank you for the memory.*

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**Sharon Tanner** - July 09, 2020 at 12:27 AM

K(

“ *Sharon, Luke Emily, and Hannah my thoughts are with you all . You both where so good to me when I watch all of the kids for you and Ty. I didn't realize that Ty served in Vietnam . You two have been together for such a long time . You two made such a great pair , I always thought that about you both. I will never forget how good you both where with Luke, Emily and Hannah . Always taking the time out of your busy schedules during the day and coming upstairs and spending time with the kids for awhile and playing with them before returning back to work . My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Ty was a good man and really did love his family. What great memories you all share of your husband , father grandpa and friend. May you rest at peace Ty.*

---

**Kim Schlittler (knoble)** - July 05, 2020 at 06:09 PM

ST

*Kim Thank you for your kind words. It has been a long time since we have seen you, I hope your life is kind like you are. Our Ty was a good man but just could not get better. He was in the nursing home and we could not even visit him for 3 months. When he got to Agrace the family could finally give him a hug. He lost his speech and it was very hard on him for the 8 days he was there but the care was marvelous. We told him it was time to get to Heaven. Yes rest in peace.*

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**Sharon Tanner** - July 09, 2020 at 12:35 AM

NE

“ Sorry for your loss Tanner family. Gary and Shiela Nelson

Nelsons - July 05, 2020 at 09:11 AM

GM

So sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love u guys. Cousin Gary and Cathy

Gary Melby - July 06, 2020 at 09:25 AM

ST

Thank you for your prayers..

Sharon Tanner - July 08, 2020 at 09:21 PM

LT

“ I remember Easter Dinner at Uncle Bill and Aunt Max, 1965. We all together behind store in Basswood playing ball. Aunt "Bobbie" Roberta family and uncle Bill family against Us "Chet" Tanner family. I have picture of us all by lilac bush out back. I remember when Terry came home with badger honor flight. I was so proud he got the welcome he and all the Vietnam soldier's, should have got before! Love you and may you rest in peace. My condolences to family.

Linda Tanner-Freitag - July 05, 2020 at 08:21 AM

ST

Linda Thank you for the work you did to get the honor flight to happen. He finally got the welcome home he deserved. I am so happy we got to know you and will keep in touch. Thanks Again

Sharon Tanner - July 09, 2020 at 12:39 AM



“ We became friends when I was a senior and he was a junior in high school. We loved hunting and fishing and spent many hours together doing that. He was a good guy, always happy and always smiling. Sad to see him gone.

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**Dan Bomkamp** - July 04, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ Peace, Prayer Blessing Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Terry "Ty" G. Tanner.

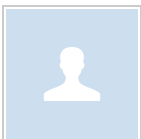


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July 04, 2020 at 04:43 PM



“ I remember when Terry worked at the Reedsburg Hospital, I was a LPN also working there. It was cool to work with him as we both were from the Muscododa area. I went to school with his sister Cindy. Beautiful memorial about him, you have my sympathy. ❤️

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**Renee (Mousseau)Anliker** - July 04, 2020 at 04:00 PM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Terry "Ty" G. Tanner.



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July 04, 2020 at 03:01 PM

SM

“ I will always remember Ty as a warm and wonderful person of the highest caliber. He always had a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye... A clever wit and dry sense of humor. It was an honor to know him and to have him as part of our family. He will be missed by us all. So much love going out to my sister Sharon, my nephew, nieces, and the entire family. Prayers for strength during this most difficult of times... 💕🙏😭

Sondra Melby - July 04, 2020 at 02:52 PM

ST

Sondra, Nathaniel, Shannon and Katie  
Thank you all so much for the beautiful flowers. They brighten my day as I am trying to get all the paper work etc. done. Thank you for the kind words. He will be missed. Love you all.

Sharon Tanner - July 09, 2020 at 12:42 AM

ST

The basket came and is very, very nice. Your sympathies are so appreciated. We are getting through this together. Hannah was with me this weekend and we got some things done. Keeping busy is important. We hope Shannon, Nathaniel and Sondra that you are doing well and thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Sharon Tanner - July 13, 2020 at 01:10 PM

DS

“ I have always admired Ty for being a soldier, a survivor, and a man with a good heart. I'm glad he considered me a friend. My sincere condolences to Sharon and family. Rest in peace my friend.

Doug Stamm - July 04, 2020 at 11:22 AM

ST

Thank you Doug. I am sure he is in a better place. He couldn't get better and the quality of life was gone. He had many welcoming him to heaven.

Sharon Tanner - July 09, 2020 at 12:45 AM

MS

“ Ty, I will miss you. You always made me smile and made my heart happy. Love you Sharon. I am glad that I was able to see you both over the years as our families touched base. Rest In Peace cousin!

Mindy Stivers - July 04, 2020 at 02:42 AM

ST

Thank you Mindy. He will be missed. Love you too.

Sharon Tanner - July 09, 2020 at 12:45 AM

VC

“ Such a kind, fun, and handsome high school friend.  
Peace be with you

Vickie and Cy - July 03, 2020 at 01:51 PM

ST

Thank you both. He can rest now without pain.

Sharon Tanner - July 09, 2020 at 12:45 AM

JP

“ I was shocked to hear of Terry's passing. I haven't seen him for quite some time and so have lost track, but have such very good memories of Terry & Sharon through our days at RCHS. He was a very cool guy, a really good guy. Smart, athletic, talented and it sounds like he and Sharon raised a wonderful family. My sympathy to you all. Take care ...

John Poole - July 02, 2020 at 06:32 PM

L&

My sympathy and prayers to you and your family! I thank Terry for his sacrifice of surviving in Vietnam! I'm certain he had many memories to fight!

Lela Schaub Wenig class of '67 - July 03, 2020 at 06:59 PM

MM

*My deepest sympathy 💔 for Sharon and family. Terry was a really nice guy, getting to know him when the family moved to Basswood. To Cindy I am so very sorry 💔 for your loss. May God 🙏 comfort all and I am keeping you in my prayers.*

Marilyn Martin - July 04, 2020 at 09:34 AM

CB

*Sorry to hear of Terry's passing. My condolences and God's blessings to you and your family Sharon.*

Cyndie Brown - July 04, 2020 at 10:26 AM

CD

*I really enjoyed being at the same place of employment for a few years with both Terry and you, Sharon..Terry was always so pleasant. My sympathy to all the family. Hugs.*

Carolyn Denman - July 04, 2020 at 01:55 PM

NS

*So sorry to read of Terry's passing, Sharon. Missed you folks having your pharmacy in Muscoda, as you were both so friendly & kind. Didn't get to see you both as often after you left here. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

*Norma Stackman*

Norma Stackman - July 04, 2020 at 03:13 PM

JW

*Emily and family--my heart is sad for you. I never met him but know how much Emily loved him. He will be at peace now and although your hearts are broken, keep the memories and be at peace too.*

Jennie Watson - July 05, 2020 at 01:18 AM



*I first met Terry when Loren Cindy were together .I am so sorry to hear of Terry 's passing . You and Terry was so fast at filling Meds . I remember when you lived up above the pharmacy and what a great aunt and uncle you were to my 3 nieces . I have so many memories also of when Luke Emily and Hannah were born what wonderful loving parents you were . My heart breaks for you Sharon ,Luke ,Hannah and Emily but i no Terry is in a better place . Praying for all of you God Bless I no you have alot of great memories*

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**Diane Havard** - July 05, 2020 at 03:00 AM



*My prayers to Cindy also*

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**Diane Havard** - July 05, 2020 at 01:54 PM



*I am so very sorry to hear of Terry's passing. I have always thought the world of him, starting way back as neighbors on the Westside to when I would see him at Snyder's/Thrifty White later in life. He was a really special man. Hugs to Sharon and Cindy. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers 🙏*

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**Susan Brady** - July 05, 2020 at 11:16 PM



*Thank you Susan. He will be missed.*

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**Sharon Tanner** - July 09, 2020 at 12:52 AM