



Tommie Bos

Life Story

With every trial in life there is always a silver lining to be found, and Tomya Bos was one of those special people that could always seem to find it. She had a positive spirit, which like a ray of sunshine, brightened the lives of those around her. Tomya devoted her life to caring for her family, often setting aside her own needs to tend to their needs instead. She embraced her life, coloring the world with the vibrant facets of her personality each and every day.

The 1940's were a time of great change for women in the world of sports, especially golf, as the Women's Professional Golf Association formed in 1946, and the Ladies Professional Golf Association was also formed, in 1949. Alfred and Mary (Fuller) Henigsmith, of Plymouth, Indiana were preparing for a big change of their own; as Mary was due to give birth to their baby at any time. They were indeed blessed on a beautiful spring day, May 3, 1948 with the birth of their healthy daughter, Tomya. Unfortunately, Tomya's parents divorced, leaving her to move around quite a bit with her mother until Mary married Warren Tucker when Tommie, as she liked to be called, was 14. Warren was able not only to provide Tomya with a stable home in the Paw Paw and Dowagiac area, but he also provided her with a positive male influence in her life. Tommie attended Paw Paw High School and was part of the graduating class of 1965.

After high school, Tommie married Terry Boley, and although they were divorced after 12 years of marriage, the couple was blessed with the births of two children; Michael, in 1970, and Beth, in 1972. The divorce left Tommie to raise her children as a single mother during times when there weren't as many resources as we now have today. Tommie worked three jobs to support herself and her children, and although money was always tight, her children were always provided for and never went without anything they needed.

Tommie's job at Newhouse Print Supply paved the way for the beginning of a love story which would span more than 20 years. A fellow employee there by the name of Bob Bos, had been going through a divorce; Tommie gave him kind words of encouragement throughout his trying time. In acceptance of a bet, Bob asked Tommie out, she accepted and on their first date they talked for three hours. It was love at first sight, especially for Bob who claimed, "She had me at hello." At first Tommie was a bit shy, but over time; she let her guard down and was able to be more open with Bob. Tommie and Bob felt they were truly soul mates and after a whirlwind romance, they were married on June 25, 1985 at the Plainwell United Methodist Church.

In addition to Tommie's two children, Bob brought two children of his own, Robin and Brian. There were times that four teenagers under the same roof were quite a challenge, but staying true to form, Tommie took it all in stride, and together, they formed one family. A strong marriage was the glue that held their family together; Tommie and Bob picked up a few secrets to a wonderful marriage along the way. They had open communication, were always honest with each other, and kept no secrets from each other either. Tommie and Bob never went to bed angry with their spouse and always ended the day with a goodnight kiss. Tommie was loving and forgiving towards both her husband and her children. She had an excellent relationship with her children as well, giving them confidence and wisdom, which helped guide them throughout their lives.

In addition to pouring herself into her family, Tommie found time to enjoy some of her own interests as well. She took up golf in order to spend more time with Bob, but she also ended up gaining something that she liked and was talented at. Although her drives and fairway shots were not great in length, they were straight, and once she was on the green, Tommie was deadly with her putter. Tommie could definitely hold her own in her golf game and even managed to humble her son during a friendly round! She and Bob also enjoyed traveling and the western United States held some of Tommie's favorite destinations such as Yellowstone National Park and Mount Rushmore. She also made memories traveling out east to visit Michael, stopping along the way at Gettysburg and Hershey, Pennsylvania. Tommie loved hosting family gatherings at her home, especially for special occasions like birthdays, Christmas, and the Fourth of July. When grandchildren arrived on the scene, Tommie delighted in spending time with them, going shopping or to Binder Park Zoo together. In addition, she collected Beanie Babies for her grandchildren.

Tommie Bos was a compassionate woman, a dedicated wife and mother, and a genuine friend. She had a great sense of humor and a quick wit as well. Whether she

was sharing encouraging words, giving thoughtful gifts, or hosting a birthday dinner, Tommie was the happiest when she was giving of herself to others. Tommie was a beloved wife, Mom, and Grandmother (Nane & Nena) who will be forever etched on the hearts of those she leaves behind.

Tommie Bos, of Plainwell, MI died at her home, surrounded by her family, on Wednesday December 17, 2008. Members of Tommie's family include her husband Bob, 4 children: Michael Boley, Beth (Brad) March, Robin (William) McNair and Brian (Kim) Bos. Other members of her family include her 9 grandchildren: Brëndann, Ariel, Hunter, Cortney, Nathan, Madison, Nicholas, Natalia, Eli, her sister Jaqueline Henigsmith and numerous friends. She was preceded in death by her Mother Mary Ellen Tucker. Visit with Tommie's family and friends and share light refreshments, Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at the Life Story Funeral Home, Plainwell, 120 S. Woodhams (685-5881). Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the same location. Please visit Tommie's memory page at www.lifestorynet.com, where you can read her life story, archive a favorite memory or photo, sign her memory book online before coming to the funeral home or make a memorial donation to the American Cancer Society or Hospice Care of SW Michigan.