

# TOM & MARILYN KRAEMER SCHOLARSHIP



## FUND BACKSTORY . . .

Tom and Marilyn Kraemer were more than successful business owners — they were pillars of their community. Known for their compassion and dedication, the couple built a respected network of funeral homes across central Wisconsin, serving families in Athens, Edgar, Marathon, and Wausau.

“Tom was a self-driven businessman and very proud of being a business owner, and he always encouraged others to own their own business,” shared Liz Kraemer. His entrepreneurial spirit was matched only by his deep commitment to helping others, both personally and professionally.

By his side through every challenge and achievement was his wife, Marilyn. “Marilyn was always by his side; if he was somewhere, she was there, too,” recalled Paul Gassner. The two shared a partnership built on loyalty and mutual respect, balancing the demands of their business with an unwavering devotion to each other and their community.

After their passing, Liz and Paul sought a meaningful way to honor their legacy, not just as business leaders, but as generous, compassionate members of the communities they served. Together, they created the Tom & Marilyn Kraemer Scholarship, established in 2023.

The scholarship provides financial support to five local graduating seniors pursuing studies in the field of science — a reflection of Tom and Marilyn’s belief in hard work, education, and giving back.

“We decided we wanted to give back to the four communities where they had their funeral home businesses,” Liz explained. “They cared deeply for the people they served.”

Paul added, “We were very sensitive to the communities Tom practiced in. They were very private individuals, yet they were very close to each other and close to the community. They were an inspirational couple their entire lives, and any challenges they faced, they went through together.”

Through this scholarship, Tom and Marilyn’s lifelong values, dedication, partnership, and generosity, continue to touch lives and inspire new generations.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Graduating high school senior
- Attending Athens, Edgar, Marathon, Wausau East or Wausau West
- Pursuing a science degree, with preference given to mortuary science

