



## Charlie Tomlanovich

February 14, 1950 - April 19, 2026

NORWAY- Charlie Michael Tomlanovich age 76 of Norway, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, April 19, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer, at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, WI.

He was born in Phelps, WI on February 14, 1950 the son of the late Mike and June (Dibbs) Tomlanovich.

Charlie grew up in Eagle River, enjoyed racing snowmobiles, playing hockey fishing, hunting, and spending time with his brother, sisters and his family, especially his granddaughters watching them play hockey and softball.

Charlie graduated from Northland Pines High School in 1969; he went on to the skilled mechanical trade and became a master plumber.

He was a member of UP Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #111, and along with his son Eli, owned and operated Sunrise Plumbing in Norway.

Charlie always brought joy to those around him, waved at everyone he knew and often said "I've always thought that it's nice to be nice, we can't save the world, but we can try. Any thing short of death, or something happening to our kids, we should be okay."

Charlie is survived by his son Eli (Jessica) Tomlanovich of Norway; daughter Jodi (Nick) First of Grand Rapids, MI; grandchildren Lilly and Lyla Tomlanovich, Grayson, Halston, Axton and Declan First; brother Donnie (Joan) Tomlanovich; sisters Gloria McDonald and Mary (Jay) Wentworth, all of Eagle River, WI; many nieces and nephews.

Family will greet friends on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 3-6 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 5. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home  
618 Norway Street  
P.O. Box 155  
Norway, MI 49870  
(906) 563-5700  
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com  
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

PJ

“ I knew Charlie for many years.it was always a pleasure to see him. I will miss him.

Paul Johnson - May 05 at 07:40 PM

AA

“ I am so glad he and Julie came to Christ at the age of 20 something! Rest in peace Charlie...my condolences to Gloria...Mary Jo and Donnie...

Anne M Arndt - May 05 at 10:25 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Charlie Tomlanovich.



May 05 at 07:10 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charlie Tomlanovich.

May 05 at 07:10 AM

AA

“ Charlie was always the plumber of choice when we had a plumbing problem. Jobs other people wouldn't do, Charlie could. Always trustworthy. Always on time. He will be a treasure missed.

Anthony Adams - May 03 at 09:36 PM

JA

“ Charlie, or Tuna, as those who had the fortune of knowing him more frequently referred to him, was an incredible soul. His hugs were purposeful. When you got one, it felt different. Intentional. Delivered so you *KNEW* you were loved. Usually followed by a kiss. Right on the lips! I miss them as I type this. He passed that love on to his kids and they exude it too. We're so thankful to have had you in our lives. If I can leave even one person feeling that when it's my time to go, my life will have been worth living. Rest forever in peace Charlie Tuna. Thank you for your love and kindness.

---

**Joshua Arndt** - May 01 at 05:39 PM

KA

“ Man it's been a rough couple of months for the family in the UP. My absolute most loved feelings from childhood came from my family in Norway and I am forever grateful for the love, joy, and acceptance I always felt from Charlie. He had an amazing heart and his smile was contagious and uplifting! A beautiful soul that will be missed greatly❤️. Jesus loves you, and so do I!  
Katie

---

**Katie Arndt** - May 01 at 04:57 PM

DM

“ One of the last jobs Charlie ever did was to install my new dishwasher along with his son, Eli. Charlie went above and beyond my expectations. He was kind, friendly, courteous, and professional. I remember asking him, "Hey, buddy, what's your name?" Charlie, he said, and I shook his hand. You can tell a lot about someone by the way they shake your hand. He was honest and hard working. I enjoyed meeting him and having him in my house. Great man, totally trustworthy. RIP, Charlie.

---

**dan mcguire** - April 29 at 02:18 PM

MM

*So true. So hard-working and someone you could always count on, no matter what. We're all so blessed to have known/called him family*

**Mariann McDonald** - April 29 at 08:57 PM

FV

“ *Freida Violet lit a candle in memory of Charlie Tomlanovich*



**Freida Violet** - April 28 at 08:46 AM

DL

“ *It's rare to meet someone who is truly liked by everyone—but Charlie was one of those exceptional people. He was kind, generous, and genuinely good in a way that left a lasting impression. For many years, we were fortunate to have him as a strong supporter of our family business. More than a valued customer, Charlie was a true friend—someone who brought out the best in others and made life richer for those who knew him.*

**Don Lofholm** - April 27 at 03:59 PM

MM

*Awww!! What a sweet tribute!! So, so true!!*

**Mariann McDonald** - April 29 at 08:58 PM

DL

*I couldn't have said it better, Don. Charlie was a true friend and was such a blessing to all who new him. Rest in peace my friend!*

**David Lofholm** - May 05 at 01:33 PM

BF

“ *Barbara Frechette lit a candle in memory of Charlie Tomlanovich*



Barbara Frechette - April 22 at 12:03 PM

BF

*Thanks for being there for me during a difficult time. It was always nice to see your smile. Rest in Peace Charlie.*

Barbara Frechette - April 22 at 12:04 PM

MM



Mariann McDonald - April 29 at 09:00 PM

DI

“ *Many days Charlie and I would sit on his front deck and just talk. He was always concerned about me, especially after I had a kidney removed a few years ago. Several times he would stop at my house, just to check on me during my recovery. He always had a smile for everybody, and a wave.*

*My heart goes out to Charlie's family as well. Eli, Jess, and the girls were very close with him. And he loved his family so very much!*

*You will be very much missed, my friend!*

Dianna - April 22 at 10:15 AM

MM

□ *I bet a thousand ppl could say this same thing. Sitting and talking with him, and the GENUINE, caring nature that came with it. It's unmatched* ❤️

Mariann McDonald - April 29 at 09:02 PM

MO

“ He was probably one of the greatest guys I ever knew always willing to help anyone in need I can remember him driving down 15 th ave so slow. All the kids running up to him yelling Charlie Charlie. They all would get a stick of gum from him kids just loved him and he loved the kids. You will be missed my friend. Now it's your turn to rest buddy

---

**mary opolka** - April 22 at 06:48 AM

DH

Charlie was one of a kind. He plumed my new house for me, 20 years ago. When I asked the locals who would be a good fit for me, everybody said “Charlie Tomlanovich” you won't be sorry. That started a friendship. RIP my dear friend. Duane Hongisto and Mary Oman.

---

**Duane Hongisto** - April 22 at 08:24 PM

MM

□ such sweet tributes from you both.  
TRULY one of a kind man!!

Thanks for sparking that memory Mary... from my visits to Norway many moons ago, I can picture him driving slow in the truck...and the kids yelling for him, or everyone waving.

He was genuinely loved by all □

---

**Mariann McDonald** - April 29 at 09:11 PM

MM

“ Love you Uncle Charlie!!! It is my most cherished childhood memory visiting and staying at your house each year for the county fair. Nothing topped it. Always such a pleasure to be in your company



Mariann McDonald - April 21 at 09:25 PM

MM

Yes! I remember this like it was yesterday. It was the best part of the summer. Until we meet again. We will love you forever Uncle Charlie!

Marci McDonald - April 22 at 10:11 PM

JA

LOVE this

Joshua Arndt - May 01 at 05:39 PM

KL

“ So sorry for your loss. He was a great, great man, and I will miss seeing him around town.



Kristen LaValley - April 21 at 04:11 PM