

# Thomas M. Freeland, Jr., 69



## STURBRIDGE —

Thomas M. Freeland, Jr., 69, of Cedar Pond Road, passed away Saturday, April 5, 2014, in UMass Memorial Medical Center, University Campus, Worcester surrounded by his family

and close friends.

He was born in Southbridge, the son of Thomas and Florence (Makowski) Freeland, Sr..

He is survived by his high school sweetheart, Juliette (Vickers) Freeland. Thomas and Juliette would have celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary this year on July 1. He is also survived by two sons, Brian Freeland and his wife Susan of Warren and Daryl Freeland and his fiancé Karri Galonek of Brimfield; four grandchildren, Jaimie, Mikenna, Camryn and Chase; one great-granddaughter, Hayden; and many nieces, nephews and wonderful friends.

He worked in the optical field for 34 years employed by American Optical, C-Optics and Eye World. Following the closing of the AO, he worked for the Sturbridge DPW, retiring in 2007. Thomas also served 10 years on the Sturbridge Fire

Department and 10 years as a Sturbridge Reserve Police Officer.

He was a member of the first Sturbridge Police K-9 unit, Blue Knights Motorcycle Club, AO Pistol Club and AO golf league.

He served on the Southbridge Softball Association Board of Directors and played softball until the age of 64. He coached Sturbridge Little League and got his greatest enjoyment watching his boys play sports and then watching his grandchildren grow, becoming their greatest fan in all their activities. He was also known as “MacGyver” because according to his grandson, “Papa could fix anything.” He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed playing golf.

His funeral will be held on Thursday, April 10 from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, followed by a Mass at 11 a.m. in St. Anne’s Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial will be in St. Anne’s Cemetery, Sturbridge.

Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Wednesday, April 9 from 4 to 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701 or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241.

[www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)