



Thomas Albert Brown

February 11, 1949 - March 24, 2019

Tom was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan on February 11, 1949 to Earl Dale and Frances Henrietta Brown. Two years later his brother Earl Dale Brown Jr. arrived. Tom's sister Sandra Lynn Brown was born 2 years after that.

Tom grew up in Michigan. He and his family first lived in a house built by his Grandfather in Kalamazoo. From Kalamazoo, they moved to a farm in Vicksburg, Michigan. Many rich stories came of their life on the farm. They raised crops and livestock and had plenty of work and fun. The next stop was Bankson Lake in Lawton, Michigan. It was here Tom realized his love for water. He was an avid swimmer, fisherman, boater, skier, and a licensed scuba diver.

As a young man he developed an interest in welding and pursued the needed education to become certified at many levels, including mastering the difficult process of welding aluminum. Welding brought Tom to Chicago for a time, where he both worked as a welder and taught welding at the College of DuPage. After leaving Chicago, Tom moved to Tucson, Arizona where he began working for Hughes Aircraft. While in Tucson he obtained 2 associate degrees from Pima Community College, one in welding and the other in mechanical drafting. His welding career included work on aircraft missiles and parts of spacecraft. He loved technology of any kind. He and a friend built his first computer in 1992, and for a time Tom had a business, "Cadamation." Projects included work in accident reconstruction and furniture design.

Tom met the love of his life, Mary Frances Gerber, in 1979. They met while serving as best man and maid of honor in his brother Earl's wedding. It was love at first sight. Mary moved from Michigan to join Tom in Tucson in 1982 and they began their journey together. They married in 1983 at the Chapel of the Stars in Las Vegas. (Mary looked like a vision in her knee length Christian Dior gown.)

After a visit to see his brother and sister in Florida in 1997, the lure of the water called Tom and Mary to move to New Port Richey, Florida in 1998. Gulf Harbors became their home

for the next 21 years. Tom fulfilled his love of fishing and boating in a grand fashion. He loved living on the water and was thankful that God had provided the opportunity.

In 2003 Tom and Mary adopted a 12-week-old Yorkshire terrier. They named her Crickie Louise Brown. Crickie quickly became Tom's loyal and faithful companion until his passing. They spent every day together and had a very special bond.

Tom was a loyal and wonderful husband, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. He was so strong and courageous through many years of illness and his four separate battles with cancer. He perpetually bounced back, and he never complained. He was so grateful for the love, and in awe of the support from his family and friends.

Tom was and is my best friend and I will love and miss him always.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donation in Tom's memory be made to the America Cancer society:

www.cancer.org/involved/donate.html

Comments



“ Mary,

Thinking of you and keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Jeanne Muellman

Jeanne Muellman - April 01, 2019 at 03:01 PM



“ Sending thoughts and prayers to you and the family during this difficult time. Sincere condolences for your loss.

Barbara Lucas

Barbara Lucas - April 01, 2019 at 02:03 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Thomas Albert Brown.



April 01, 2019 at 02:00 PM



“ So many wonderful memories. Tom will be sadly missed, but suffers no longer. He will always be in our hearts and will never be forgotten.

Love always,

Sandy & Garland

Sandy - March 31, 2019 at 12:09 PM



“ I only knew Tom for a short while and mostly became acquainted while visiting him in hospital. One thing about Tom that was immediately obvious was how easy he was to be around, talk to, and laugh with. While in the hospital, Tom, as anyone would, wanted to go home. We joked about how we could mastermind the escape; he was a little more than a bit mischievous! Of course Mary, we joked about dealing with you should we ever pull the escape off. I jokingly told him I could not help him, as I was afraid Mary would have my hide, he sheepishly grinned and said, "You should be".

When I visited Tom and Mary at home it was overwhelmingly apparent, the great pride he took in his home. You only get a landscape like that with much attention and loving care. Tom showed his Love for Mary, Crickie and his home. So many will miss Tom, but someone as special as Tom, will be remembered always.

My heart is with Mary, Tom's family and friends in this time of sorrow.

Vera Laws - March 28, 2019 at 01:09 PM



“ Deepest and most sincere condolences

Marcia Meade - March 28, 2019 at 10:53 AM



“ Mary,
My deepest condolences to you and yours on the loss of your hubby.

Marsha B - March 28, 2019 at 08:33 AM



“ Thinking of you in this time of sorrow, just know that he is in GOD'S loving arms and GOD has his arms around you too and will see you through this. Love you, Maria

Maria - March 27, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ My husband and I lived near Tom and Mary in Tucson. We bought a puppy and name it Cricket. Tom loved that dog. He would fix her her own plate of food when we ate at their house! He would call and want Cricket to spend the night. We spent a lot of time together while we all lived in Arizona. When Tom and Mary got their dog they named after Cricket since she had passed on. There are so many things I could share about Tom being an very intelligent man, loving and a great friend. I will miss him greatly but he is in Heaven now with my husband Jack. Linda Hammon- Hodge

