



Thomas Millard Forney

November 10, 1944 - June 14, 2018

Thomas Forney, age 73 passed away June 14, 2018.

Birth and death are the parentheses of life. We are born, and we die. Tom filled the time and space between events with passion, courage, a zest for mechanical things, and many great friends. He was born in Toulon, Illinois on November 10, 1944 and died at home in Rocheport, Missouri after a long battle with many health issues. He was a metal fabricator, teacher, inventor, gunsmith, industrial contractor, mechanic, and all-around handyman. He loved to target shoot and was a precision shooter. He loved the comradery of his friends who have remained close through delightful memories and adventures they shared. He was a loyal friend and an endlessly fascinating husband. I am grateful for the time he spent with people he loved and for the many friends and students that respected him and his work and often would just call to say thank you for his help.

His last request was that his body would be taken to the Gift of Body Program at the University of Missouri School of Medicine with the hope that many of his health issues would educate students and inspire researchers to help eliminate the pain of others. The care and support given by Hospice Compassus as well as many friends who were frequent visitors to help with all sorts of needs and bring him love and cheer will never be forgotten.

He leaves behind his wife Jane Vanderham of the home, a sister Peggy Becker of Illinois and a brother Gerald Forney of Illinois, three children Mathew Forney, Melissa Austin, and Sarah Marino, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Millard Chester Forney and Alice Clara Blank and a sister Mary Alice.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Parker-Millard Funeral Service & Crematory; 12 East Ash Street, Columbia, Missouri, 65203; (573) 449-4153. Condolences may be left online for the family at www.ParkerMillard.com.

Comments



“ Many things come to mind as I remember Tom, but probably the most profound is that Tom never changed. From the day I met him on his farm at Macon (some 32 years ago), to our last visit in Columbia, Tom was Tom - hard working, fun loving, and intelligent. His talents and his heart of gold never ceased to amaze me. Tom was always willing to share his faith, his intelligence and his talents. Always willing to share all three to help and educate anyone who would listen. But, most of all, Tom loved God. He and his wife, Jane's, faith has strengthened me many times. Second only to God, Tom loved his family; his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and yes, his dogs:-) . He loved them all with a passion that showed in his face as he spoke of each and every one of them. Tom was a strong man who received his strength from God. Life threw many curves at Tom, some of those curves caused struggles, some caused heartache, but through them all, Tom stood tall and let his faith carry him through - Tom never changed.

Our most heart felt admiration goes to Jane, his wife. She has loved him, cared for him, and endured with him. Even when our beloved Tom was hiddened under layers of illness, pain, and and meds, she knew the Tom that was underneath it all and she loved him. Thank you, Tom, for all you have meant to us and for never changing, and thank you, Jane, for being his rock.

Alan & Carol McCloud

Carol McCloud - June 19, 2018 at 05:55 PM



“ Tom was a good and wise man. Many warm memories, from driving up with his special truck to move a piano or offering sage advice. I'll always picture Tom with Jane and Jack by his side as he offers up a kind thought for the day. He fought to live and then he fought to die. Now he's at peace. Bless you Jane for your devotion to the end and prayers that you too find peace in the days ahead. Lana, Greg, Sam & Anna Poole

lana poole - June 15, 2018 at 04:35 PM



“ Tom and I shared many childhood memories from climbing the pear tree in the back yard to going out to North Creek to fish for Bullheads. I help catch them but he had to clean them. The past few months we did a lot of reminiscing about our childhood. And the admiration I now have for his wife Jane and her care of him knows no bounds. Both will be remembered with love and prayers.

Peggy Forney Becker

Peggy Becker - June 15, 2018 at 01:39 PM



“ Mom - Your care of Tom is a testimony to the meaning of a dedicated marriage as witnessed by your children and all of your lovely friends. Many thanks to the friends who have supported you during this long illness. We have fond memories of Tom and will always have his mechanical prowess in our gifted designs to celebrate his life. All our Love - Michael & Suzanne Vanderham

Suzanne Vanderham - June 15, 2018 at 10:16 AM