



Todd Michael Thomas

May 3, 1981 - July 26, 2022

On the evening of July 26, 2022, our beloved Todd Michael Thomas passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. He was 41 years old. Todd leaves behind his wife, Velvet; daughter, Ayden (10), and son TJ (6). He is survived by his mother, Jeanette (Jim); father, Ernie; brothers Eric (Leila) and Chad (Kimberly); nieces, Caroline and Charleigh; nephew, Nolan; and countless extended family members and devoted friends.

Todd was an extraordinary man of many hats.

Todd was a true outdoorsman who was passionate about fishing, hunting, and all things nature. Some of his fondest memories include the summer he spent with Uncle Bud at Coyote Forest in Swan Valley, Montana. Growing up in Virginia and throughout his life, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and floating down the Shenandoah River with his dearest friends. Todd was ecstatic when he finally scored a wild turkey—which had eluded him for years. Unfortunately, his wife had no idea how to cook it, and it turned out to be quite a disastrous meal—filled with a lot of laughter. At home, he would wake up early some mornings and walk down to Lake Miltmore with a coffee and pole in hand. He would cast a few lines before breakfast and enjoy the quiet peacefulness of the lake. One of his greatest joys was teaching Ayden and TJ how to fish.

Todd was a Sergeant in the Marine Corps and a patriot. He was proud of his

service, and he loved his country. When asked his favorite color, he would respond with camouflage. He reminisced frequently of the time he spent in Okinawa and at MCAS New River. Among numerous accomplishments and awards, he was recognized for his “outstanding dedication, devotion, and hard work” by the Marines and civilians in Air Traffic Control H&HS MCAS New River. Todd proudly displayed the plaque he was awarded for this recognition in his workshop. He was also tremendously proud of receiving the "Range Highest Shot Award" during the annual rifle qualification at MCAS New River. But most of all, Todd was proud of the lasting friendships he built with his Marine Corps brothers, who remember him as “the best of the best.”

Over the years, Todd became a skilled craftsman and carpenter who was dedicated to providing homeowners with an exceptional quality of work. He was respected by his peers and regarded as a leader and model employee. But more than that, Todd was a jack of all trades and frequently helped friends and neighbors with projects small and large. He was generous with his time and talents. He was the kind of guy you could always count on to be there to lend a helping hand. Todd was never idle. He spent his nights and weekends turning his house into a home for his family. Last summer, he built TJ a brand new bedroom by constructing a shed dormer and creating a special space with a dinosaur nook and all. Todd was determined to provide his family with a beautiful and loving home.

Todd was a loving husband and father. He met his wife, Velvet, while stationed at MCAS New River. She remembers vividly how he brought the house down that karaoke night (and many others) with his rendition of “Sweet Child of Mine.” They reunited years later with a date at Wrigley Field and dinner at Froggy’s in Highwood, IL. Going to baseball games and eating good food quickly became a family tradition. Todd and Velvet celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary in June.

There are too many special memories to recount them all. It's the little moments and the quirks that stand out most to his family. Todd spent countless hours reading Harry Potter to Ayden at bedtime—somehow managing to make it through the entire series with enthusiasm, playing Super Smash Bros. with TJ, and initiating epic Nerf gun wars with both of them. He loved taking them to the golf range, down to the lake to fish and swim, and to Great America to ride the roller coasters. Todd was a sweet father with a sweet tooth. The kids joked that Dad was a cookie monster because he could demolish a box of Thin Mints or Oreos in one sitting. Ayden and TJ knew not to expect any leftover brownies. Todd loved milkshakes, especially chocolate ones. And to the kids' delight, he would build bonfires in the backyard, roast marshmallows, and make s'mores with them.

He was a proud father who loved watching his daughter dance. And this summer, he was filled with so much joy watching TJ ride his bike for the first time without training wheels. He had a dad's sense of humor and would call his wife each time he passed the Lake County Farm Bureau just to share the day's joke with her. These are just a few of the many memories that his family will cherish forever.

Remember Todd for his strength, bravery, generosity, and his love for his family, friends, and life. Always.

“Rather than mourn the absence of the flame, let us celebrate how brightly it burned.”

A memorial gathering will be held on September 17th from noon-2:30 p.m. at Ringa Funeral Home in Lake Villa, IL. Please join us for a celebration of Todd's life at 3:00 p.m. at Fourth Lake Resort in Lake Villa, IL.—Todd's favorite watering hole. He'd love nothing more than to share a toast and a Guinness

with all of his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to support Todd's family.
Information can be found at <https://gofund.me/dbc2eedd>.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

SEP 17. 12:00 PM - 2:15 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-2146
info@ringafuneralhome.com
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Military Honors

SEP 17. 2:15 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Todd Michael Thomas*

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Todd Michael Thomas*

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM

TC

“ I’ve been waiting to come back to this site until now to post...not because I didn’t have something to say, but rather because I didn’t want to accept the reality of what happened.

I needed to pray and find the words that honor Todd. so here goes...

Todd is a man’s man. He’s a Marine, only uses the Milwaukee tools, drinks GUINNESS and can build anything that is put in front of him.

Since I’ve known Todd, he has been a man of little words. It’s because he’d rather show you what he can do, without a need to tell you about it beforehand.

However, he is a man who can talk the talk and walk the walk.

My entire life has been in construction. I’ve never met a more professional, talented and caring Master Carpenter. When we worked together we would finish each other’s sentences and most times didn’t have to say much at all. He would just take the blueprint and get it done.

I am honored and thankful to be his friend and have met his family and lifelong friend Lane. I was overjoyed to hear from Lane, that Todd accepted Christ as his Lord and savior. I will look forward to the day that I see Todd again and in the mean time I’m certain Todd will be building and using his talents in His kingdom.

God speed brother,

Tony

Tony Coletta - August 04, 2022 at 10:26 PM

CW

“ Chaz Walker lit a candle in memory of Todd
Michael Thomas



Chaz Walker - July 30, 2022 at 04:54 PM

SD

“ From Uncle Steve (one of Todd’s best buds and Velvet’s uncle):

Todd was one hell of a man. Always willing to help anyone he knew. I was working on a house that had many repairs needed. He took the dry wall spatula from my hands and jumped right in without me asking for help. Though I offered I could not get him to accept any money. Every one of my friends I introduced him to soon became his friends as well. All my friends would later describe him as “ A great guy “. He had a certain lilt in the way he spoke that made it easy to listen to. He would tell stories about his adventures with his friends. As he spoke you would feel as though you were there with him . Never a bore. He could be a challenge for the most seasoned customer service representatives. If he felt a company was trying to take advantage of him or his family he would redress the rep until they capitulated to his demands. I have lived a good while never in my time have I seen a person in more pain than Todd during his illness. A nurse was tending to his medical needs. As she left in his agony he took time to thank her for helping him . What a man .

Steve Dennis - July 30, 2022 at 10:56 AM

JD

“ Todd was one hell of a guy. I will miss my good friend. He commanded respect from all he met not through force or coercion but through the kindness of his mind and sole. Unless you were a customer service rep. He would not stand for anyone taking advantage of him or his family . Woe to those who would try to placate him with some absurd argument as to why he was wrong. He could redress even the toughest of their arguments to the point of their capitulation. I was privileged to have known him. He was kind and endearing to all my friends I introduced him to . They would become his friends and relate to me all the good deeds he would do for them and how they admired him . He had a lilt to his voice that was engaging and easy to listen to. He could tell a story that in the moment placed you there as an observer with all the details drawing a clear picture of the event. Usually these stories were of the fun he was having at the time of those events. He had fortitude and passion. He was bold , sincere and gracious. There was no quit in him. I never saw anyone in as much pain in his final illness. Even during his agony he took the time to thank his nurse for taking care of him. What a man.

J Steve Dennis - July 29, 2022 at 10:38 PM



“ My Precious Nephew...please read how amazing this young man was and if you feel lead, please consider a donation to his family. He left behind a wife and two small children. While we never can understand the reasoning, I feel grateful we will all unite again.

Lisa Brown - July 29, 2022 at 06:46 PM

PP

“ I just want to send my condolences to Todd's wife and children. Todd was a top notch Marine, and more importantly just a real good guy, respected and loved by all. I am so sorry for your loss. Semper Fi my brother... rest easy.

Paul Pillow - July 29, 2022 at 06:26 PM

CW

“ Once in a while during our life's journey we meet someone who makes a permanent impression. Todd Thomas was a kind, thoughtful, disciplined and talented craftsman whom I truly respected.
My prayers will continue for Velvet, TJ and Auden. God bless and strengthen you.
Chaz Walker

Chaz Walker - July 29, 2022 at 12:35 PM

JF

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I am still driving the car Todd sold me 20 years ago. I always enjoyed his smile. Prayers

Joyce Frayer - July 27, 2022 at 06:36 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Todd Michael Thomas.



July 27, 2022 at 06:28 PM