



Thomas E. Holtz

February 19, 1949 - January 31, 2012

Visitation for Thomas E. Holtz, 62, of Bradley, will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. A procession will leave the funeral home at 10 a.m. Tuesday to proceed to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, for the 11 a.m. burial services, with military honors. Memorials may be made to Pause for Patriotism Inc. He passed away Tuesday (Jan. 31, 2012) at his home.

He was born Feb. 19, 1949, in Kankakee, the son of Fritz and Julia Gulczynski Holtz. He resided in Bradley most of his life. He graduated from Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School and joined the U.S. Marines. He was sent to Vietnam in 1968, where he was severely wounded. He survived, but lost his left leg below the knee. He retired/disabled from the U.S. Marine Corps that year. Tom went on to attend numerous barber and hair styling schools both locally and in Europe. He then began his career as a stylist, and after more than 20 years in the business and having three local shops, he retired.

Tom never considered himself disabled. If anything, it made him more determined to be active both in his personal life and his community. With that said, he went on to be one of the founders of the much-noted, communitywide Pause for Patriotism (1993 to present) program held each year on Veterans Day. He did so out of a sense of patriotism, as a salute to the military and our

nation's freedom. This was especially true for our wounded and fallen military heroes. He was associated with a number of other community and veteran organizations.

Tom was an avid boater and belonged to his much-loved Kankakee Valley Boat Club. He always said, "If I miss anything, I will really miss boating and being with those guys and gals down at the boat club." He enjoyed water-skiing and snow-skiing.

One thing for sure, anyone who met Tom will have varied and numerous memories: Compassionate, determined, wild and crazy, helpful, opinionated, humorous, or just your good friend Tom.

In the end, Tom's sense of duty to his country and love for his family and friends will surely be missed by all.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Erik and Kasey Holtz, of Wheatridge, Colo.; grandchildren, Maddison and Davis; former wife, Vickie Wright, of Sandia, Texas; close friend, Jan Bartels; one brother, Richard L. "Butch" Holtz, and sister-in-law, Karen, of Virginia Beach, Va.; his niece, Erica Holtz Thompson, her son, Logan, and husband, Mark Thompson, of Reston, Va. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends in and out of the Kankakee area.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall

KW

“ *Kimberley Winstead lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz*



Kimberley Winstead - February 08, 2012 at 06:33 PM

KW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Erik, Kasey, Maddie and Davis at this difficult time. After reading through these wonderful tributes to Tom, he must have been a wonderful man and loved by many friends.*

*All Our Love,
John, Kimberley, Ashlee & Austin Winstead*

Kimberley Winstead - February 08, 2012 at 06:32 PM

JK

“ *My sympathies to all of you! I knew Tom through my sister Pat Azzarelli. He was a wonderful man!*

Jayne Korstick - February 08, 2012 at 07:42 AM

TM

“ *Tom was a valued friend. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

Tom and Mary Maass

Thomas W Maass - February 07, 2012 at 05:00 PM

PC

“ I always liked to stop at the boatclub for a beer, Tom would always greet me with a smile and a story. He had some great stories, he led an interesting life, I told him he should write down his memoir. He smiled laughed nodded his head and said, I should. I hope he did. it would be a great book. I will miss you Tom.
Pete J Cotsones

Pete J Cotsones - February 07, 2012 at 07:39 AM

KM

“ I feel very lucky to have known Tom for about 30 years. His bigger than life smile and laughter will be missed. I always enjoyed our conversations and his unique way of looking at life. He was a great person. I think everyone has great memories and I hope we all remember to keep sharing them. I remember one day after boating, we all went to the house for a cookout. It was the first time I ever saw a Christmas tree still up in summer. It was a funny moment I will always remember. Prayers and love to Erik and the entire family. RIP Tom. Kathy Molloy-Knight

Kathy Molloy-Knight - February 06, 2012 at 10:03 PM

MC

“ Mariann Clark lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz



Mariann Clark - February 06, 2012 at 09:14 PM

SC

“ *Sheree Cavanaugh-Earley lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz*



Sheree Cavanaugh-Earley - February 06, 2012 at 08:47 PM

DG

“ *A great man who did wonderful things for his community.*
David Gibbs

David gibbs - February 06, 2012 at 08:25 PM

EC

“ *Eric And Cheryl Christensen lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz*



Eric and Cheryl Christensen - February 06, 2012 at 07:55 PM



EVERYONE knew Tom! He was a wonderful ambassador for Kankakee and our country.!

Diane LeRoy - February 07, 2012 at 11:42 AM

RK

“ *Ronald J Kapustka lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz*



Ronald J Kapustka - February 06, 2012 at 07:08 PM

RK

I met Tom some years back when I got involved with his beloved event, Pause for Patriotism. My friends and I looked forward to attending the event and setting up our military displays and especially spending time with Tom. Tom attended my two oldest sons' Eagle Scout ceremony and he was the highlight of the event!

We will all miss you Tom, but please know that all those who met you are better for it. I will keep Tom and his family in my prayers tonight.

Ronald J Kapustka - February 06, 2012 at 07:10 PM

KH

“ I will agree with you, Tom was a great guy, and a self made man. that knew how to enjoy life to the fullest..He will be missed. For someone who sacrifice so much for his country, he never forgot to share with those who followed in the Armed services. Semper FI

Kyle Hoke - February 06, 2012 at 06:56 PM

JM

“ Jim And Janine Marcotte lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz



Jim and Janine Marcotte - February 06, 2012 at 04:58 PM

DF

“ What a terrible shock when I read the Daily Journal on line just now. Like so many, I always was happy to run across Tom over the years. Patriot? Most certainly! I will spend time now thanking God for his contribution to society...and for strength for his dear family and close friends during this time of loss. What a sad day this is for so many...

Debra Pomon Foulks

Debra Foulks - February 06, 2012 at 04:02 PM

FG

“ So sorry to hear of Tom's death. I've known him since 1974, and, he always cut my hair like no one else. Many times I would experiment, with color or perms, and, then call on Tom to fix it. He always laughed, and said another creation by Fran. He was a great attribute to the community, and will be greatly missed, for his work, and for his one of a kind personality. He made all of us with disabilities know that you could live your life to the fullest, and not to feel sorry for yourself.

Rest in Peace, and, I know the angels will enjoy that great personality.

Fran Graves

Fran Graves - February 06, 2012 at 03:40 PM

JH

“ Johnny Holt lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz



Johnny Holt - February 06, 2012 at 03:19 PM

BW

“ What a shock ... I've known Tom for a good 20 years through working together on various projects in the community, and through mutual friends. He was always a great guy, and a fun friend. I'll miss you, Tom ... don't be too onery up there, ease them into it! Godspeed, friend.

Becky Wilder - February 06, 2012 at 02:55 PM

GE

“ *What a terrible loss of a good friend and to the community! I've known you since the mid 70's, your "neat" shop and the music that was always playing. You were very good at telling jokes and making people laugh, we sure could use more of that today. You were in Northfield Mall for awhile, I suggested you stay there. You told me the rent was high per square foot, so I said "stand on one foot", you looked at me and said " I already am", I was embarassed but we both had a good laugh over it. I will miss you! Enjoy the reward you so richly deserve.*

Gary L. Ekhoﬀ

Gary L. Ekhoﬀ - February 06, 2012 at 11:38 AM

TM

“ *Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz*



Tom Mallaney - February 06, 2012 at 11:15 AM

PM

“ *tom used to cut my hair back in the 70s when i was in high school. he was so good at styling hair. best ever. it was always so cool to go to his shop. it wasn't your typical barber shop. his shop had class, it was like his home and i was a guest, and oh he just happened to cut hair too. it was just fantastic. after i moved away, every time i would go home i'd be sure to stop and see him and ask him to cut my hair. he was as great a person as he was a barber, and he was the best. my condolences. peace.....patrick j. martinez*

patrick j. martinez - February 06, 2012 at 08:25 AM

JN

“ Condolences to Tom's family. I knew Tom from the time he went to school with my brother Mark at Bradley High. Tom also was best man for Mark's wedding and their friendship continued after Vietnam until my brother's death in 1978. Tom also was my hair stylist for many years. Was a wonderful and fun-loving guy that will truly be missed by all he knew.

My Deepest Sympathy, Judy(Sovinski)Nowman

Judy Nowman - February 05, 2012 at 02:48 PM

PS

“ My brother knew Tom since they were kids. He was a good friend to him. Tom was one of the first of Bob (Nick) Nicodemus's buddies to come to our house after the untimely death of Bob. Tom helped in other ways afterward and we very grateful. Sending prayers to your family.

My deepest sympathy,

Pat Swartz

Patricia Swartz - February 04, 2012 at 10:08 PM



CS

“ What a great guy! I can't help but think of all the great times we had on the good old Kankakee river back in the day!

Carol Sperry - February 04, 2012 at 10:04 PM

KW

“ Dear Holtz family. For those of us who had the good fortune to have known Tom, he always brought a little more hope and joy to this world. Having known him since childhood, I will remember the man Tom and his positive presence going back all the way to that rosey cheeked little boy who had such a sweet way and smile and forever a twinkle in his eye! Tom was a person who knew wisdom. Prayers and caring will surely come your way from the entire community. I send my own as well.

Tom will be missed by many people.
Kay Wilder

kay wilder - February 04, 2012 at 07:14 PM



“ Tom I've known you since the mid 70's. At a time when we were still finding ourselves, you had already been to war, started a business, and became a father. And even though I hadn't been around much, I still have had the chance to catch you at the boat club from time to time. The last thing we talked about was me coming up to spend the weekend on your boat in Chicago this summer. Wish we had done it last. Remembering our days on the Kankakee river in the old "Honey Fritz", and the Sandbar. The visits to Mr. Anthony's, (whether I needed a haircut or not), and the nights up at the Green Dragon, and No Dogs, and points north. I was always amazed with your daredevil attitude. Never shy to try. Water Skiing, Parasailing, Dancing the Hustle ! lol Then your activism. You never shied away from helping others. The "Pause For Patriotism" was, and is a great tribute. I could go on, and on. But I think I'll save those fifty or more stories when we toast our friend. Love you man . . . Armand deBlouwe

Armand deBlouwe - February 04, 2012 at 07:07 PM

RG

“ With deepest sympathy to his family. We so enjoyed his love for life and sense of humor. His heroics and his love for his community will be remembered. The Gonski Family

Rebecca Gonski - February 04, 2012 at 05:25 PM

JJ

“ Tom, you were an old friend and my barber for many years. We spent some time on the river together back in the late 70s with John, Freda and several other friends. We all will miss you.

Jeff Josephson

Jeff Josephson - February 04, 2012 at 03:42 PM

BC

“ Tom, you will be greatly missed by all of your friends and the entire community. We will always remember seeing you at the Boat Club and all the good times we had there. We salute YOU, your patriotism and all the great things you stood for! We loved being your friends. We will remember you always! Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Bernie & Shelley Cox, Arden, NC

Bernie & Shelley Cox - February 04, 2012 at 03:21 PM

CP

You'll be missed Tom

Carl R. Powell - February 04, 2012 at 05:43 PM

JM

“ *Jill Mullikin lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Holtz*



Jill Mullikin - February 04, 2012 at 01:49 PM

MA

“ *Thank You Tom for your Awesome 'Brotherly Advice' to me thru the years, every time I'd run into you, I could've sat with you all day just listening to your Beautiful Words of Wisdom! Our Family adored you! Enjoy Heaven with our brother Ray & May God give your whole family Peace & Tranquility in the days to come. Bless You All, & Tom just wanted to say " Thank You For Bein A Friend!"*

Mary Azzarelli-McGrath - February 04, 2012 at 10:07 AM

C(

Tom-I've known you for many years. Our kids (Kelly & Erik) went to school together and you were my hair stylist. We lived on the same st. for many years! R.I.P. Tom and may God bless you and your family.

Carolyn Balthazor (McCue) - February 04, 2012 at 02:29 PM

AH

Tom used to cut my sister's hair when she was a student at Culver. Before she'd come home for a school break, my mother would have already made her appt to get a haircut w/ Tom because the wait was so long. I went with her the last time she was home for one of those breaks---about 30 years ago. By then he'd moved his business from the Arcade Building to a house on the north side of Station St. across from Blue's Cafe. The other hairstylists---a guy and about 4 women---worked downstairs, but Tom had his own chair on the second floor. You had to climb up a narrow creaky steep wooden staircase to arrive where he performed magical wonders with his scissors. It was fun because he would have music playing and was always glad to see customers. And he had this mysterious aura about him. People (or "kids" like us) would lower their voices respectfully and half whisper, "Hey there goes Tom Holtz. He was injured in Viet Nam and survived. Someone told me he has a fake leg!" Now I know he was only six years my senior, but he seemed so much older then. Looking back I realize he really was "much older" than the rest of us. It came from the other worldliness he got for surviving a gut wrenching war a world away from which few men in his batallion returned. RIP Tom. You brought joy to so many people.

*---Alma Hernandez
Kankakee, IL*

Alma C. Hernandez - February 04, 2012 at 03:17 PM