



## Thomas John Stewart

March 18, 1941 - October 1, 2018

Thomas John Stewart, 77, passed away Monday, October 1, 2018 at his home in Bay Minette.

Thomas John Stewart, the son of Dorothy and Thomas W. Stewart, was born in St. Louis, Missouri on March 18, 1941. Tom grew up in Ewing and Benton, Illinois and later enjoyed living in several locations around southern Illinois to Montevideo, Uruguay, to Chicago, Illinois, before settling down and retiring in Bay Minette, Alabama in 1996.

He is pre-deceased by his wife Loretta L. Stewart, March 30, 2018. He is survived by his son, Raymond Stewart of Boston, New York; and daughter Shelley Piraino (John) of Silverhill, Alabama; one grandson, six step-granddaughters; and 3 step-great grandchildren.

Tom's life was a colorful one full of good, sometimes questionable, and a few downright bad jokes. He always had "one more" to get a laugh out of everyone. He loved sharing detailed stories and recollections leaving the listener questioning if the tale was true – which it was invariably was.

He had a passion for planes and flying. He thoroughly enjoyed adventures flying planes of all types and sizes – whether he was doing barrel rolls too close to the ground, dropping parachute jumpers, pulling advertising banners or just flying from one place to the next, he truly loved being in the sky.

He was a teacher, believing everything was a teachable moment, whether he was in the classroom, the kitchen or in the middle of a wood-working project. He liked to explain the steps he was taking and the required math to make it

work. He could envision a project, draw a rough sketch of it and build it. Tom always believed in helping others and made a long list of friends as a result. He didn't do it for recognition, but just because he felt like it was the right thing to do.

He was loved by many and he will be missed.

A private ceremony and celebration of life is being planned and will be announced at a later date. We hope you'll share your fondest memories and jokes.

In memory of Tom donations can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project (<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>).

Arrangements are entrusted to Cason Funeral Service in Foley Alabama

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ He was my last boss at Akin Grade School. He was kind, laid back, and always had time to help. His first year, my last year, he talked me into getting my IEP's on computer using those ancient Apple 2 E's and a template he had made on a floopy disc. I came early one day to work on them. I had to use his computer in the office. I spent a half hour trying to get started but couldn't get it working. I finally called him at 6 am. He tried to help over the phone, but he had to come in to see what I was doing wrong. He came in and looked at how I was inserting the disc and turned it right side up. Oh, I was embarassed, but him? He never made me feel stupid and was so patient helping me. I have never been afraid of technology thanks to him. I have to smile at thoughts of so many stories from that year. Finding him on fb was a joy.

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**Elaine Phelps** - October 06, 2018 at 05:14 PM

JL

“ So sorry he passed - Tom sort of rescued the SIU Sport Parachute Club. He walked into a meeting one night when we didn't know where we would be going and said " i am a pilot got an airplane and a farm" the rest is history. He brought us to Benton and the farm and from 1966 until 1971 Tom was a legendary figure. In pilot terms he was a " great stick". All of us respected and loved him. He touched so many lives in a positive way and the stories we could tell would fill a book. Rest in Peace my friend.

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**Jeff Lasley** - October 05, 2018 at 10:13 PM

NS

“ In the summers when I was young we would gather at the "farm". Aunts,uncles, and cousins. I followed Tom around like a puppy. He always had time for me and as they came along all of us cousins. He took the time to teach me about what ever he was doing. When we were older he would load us all up in his car and take us to the drive in. He gave me his pony,Ribbon, who was my best friend for many years. When he went to war he would send home audio tapes. We could hear the gunfire in the background and we would hope that he would come home safe. He was a kind man, a good man, a brave man, and a little bit crazy (in a good way). He was fun to be around. I know he will be remembered fondly and missed by many.

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**Nancy Stewart** - October 05, 2018 at 05:08 PM

JL

What I remember most was how smart he was. It seemed like he could fix any broken machinery even if he had never laid eyes on it before. He would just tinker around with it until he finally got it working again. Another memory was when he was in the kitchen at the farm and he broke a bottle in the sink. He quietly came in and asked if I could drive him to the hospital. I said sure. What happened. He said he cut his hand and he might need stitches. I looked at his hand wrapped in a blood soaked towel and we hustled off to the hospital where he indeed needed stitches. He was so calm through the whole incident and I was a nervous wreck. He was a pretty cool guy. Always so laid back. I don't remember him ever getting mad. He was one of a kind.

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**Jaimie LaBuwi** - October 05, 2018 at 06:59 PM

TW

“ Mr. Stewart was a fantastic math teacher at BCHS in the 70's. He will be remembered as smart, patient, fun loving, and downright "nice" guy. I also remember his mother, Dorothy, who was the grade school band director for many years. She was a wonderful teacher and put her "all" into her career. We need more teachers like Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart in this day and age.



Toni (Razer) White - October 05, 2018 at 07:12 AM

JJ

“ He was my teacher and his mother was my teacher. We went to the same church. I'll never forget the time he took me flying. No door and no seat. "Just hang on tight, John", he said. I looked up to him. Rest In Peace Mr. Stewart. John Janes, MD.,pilot

John Janes - October 04, 2018 at 10:11 PM



“ This breaks my heart. I didnt even know he had a Facebook. He did everything in his power to make my shitty childhood better! He was sooo good to me. Im so sorry Shelley!! I loved that man! I have few good memories of my grade school years. He is definitely one of the few I had. 😭

Tammy Toms - October 04, 2018 at 09:36 PM

AL

“ Tom was one-of-a-kind and Whitey and Annette Lynch will miss him. We have a lot of fond memories of going on vacations with him I am flying with him. So very sorry for your loss and very shocked.

Annette Lynch - October 04, 2018 at 09:22 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Photo Memories*



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**Shelley Piraino** - October 04, 2018 at 06:45 PM