



Stephen Carter Thomas

JAN 26, 1950 - JAN 26, 2022



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Stephen Carter Thomas, age 72, of Muskegon, Michigan died on January 26th, 2022 after suffering an aortic aneurysm on September 13th. He began to make a recovery, but unfortunately complications continued to plague him and he made an escape early on the morning of his birthday. He was born on January 26th, 1950 in Santa Paula, California to Silver and Rollie Thomas. He was the youngest of three children with an older brother, Dean and sister, Lisa. He grew up running around orange orchards and the love of southern California never left him.

After graduating from high school he had many jobs. He was a paramedic, a ranch hand, and a psychiatric technician at the state run psychiatric hospital in Camarilla. While he was working at the state hospital he made lifelong friends with Lance and Maureen Burt. Maureen's little sister, Michele Campbell, was introduced to him on a vacation to California and a lifelong love began. He followed Michele back to Michigan and worked for her father, Jim Campbell, as a rod man in his surveyor business. After they married, on February 12, 1977, he worked as a chimney sweep, a supervisor at Eagle Ottawa Tannery, he completed his Bachelor degree, sold insurance, finished a Masters in Divinity, was ordained, became a pastor, escaped the New York Classis, taught yoga, became a Mennonite pastor, and then became Pagan. He was a lifelong writer and musician. He was able to play almost any instrument after a few minutes and did it all by ear. He had a beautiful voice that was a joy to listen to and wrote songs that many people loved.

Steve had five kids that he loved endlessly. Shona, Chris, Amanda, Jennie, and Peter were so important to him and being a good dad was something that he valued. He played, teased, surprised, comforted and was the most amazing father. He taught his kids to love the beach and simple things. He found excitement where there was none and made a big deal out of small things. He created magic and his smile was an irresistible invitation to suspend disbelief and enjoy it with him. Later in life, he lived that love over again with his grandkids: Rodney, Josh, Jack, Michele, Grace, Morgan, Simon, Molly, and Jeffrey. Fishing for whales in the rain barrel, sharks in the carpet, nicknames, and a whole new magic began again.



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The true center of his life was his wife, Michele. He loved her endlessly and loved to make her laugh, to go on adventures with her, to play guitar and sing with her, read to her and spoil her. His Princess was never far from his thoughts.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Silver Dills and Rollie Thomas, his beloved in-laws Mary and James Campbell, his brother Dean Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Michele Thomas. His children: Shona (Neal) Hamilton, Chris Thomas, Amanda (Nate) Westbrook, Jennie Harland, Peter (Sara) Thomas.

We are bereft.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.



Tribute Wall

Stephen Carter Thomas

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KS

Kenneth Milton Swearingen shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

05/06/2024: So very sad this evening, having just learned that Steve Carter Thomas, the keyboard player in our band "The Alamo", from 1967 to 1971, passed away 27 months ago, back on 01//26/2022 at the age of 72, in Minnesota. Attached is a picture that I took in 1970, in Santa Paula, CA, of Steve and his wife, Cheryl, and their daughter Shona. Two years later, they attended my marriage to Leslie in 1972, in Fresno, CA, in which he was my best man. During the post-marriage reception, Steve discovered a baby grand piano in the synagogue dining room, and we sang the LONG version of "Hey Jude", until the champaign ran out. Steve and I were very close friends, composing and performing music, and covering "top-twenty" pop music of that period with the rest of our band, Tony, Ron, Bob, and Jim at private parties in Ventura County, the San Fernando Valley, Fillmore Theater, Oxnard Bowling Lounge, etc. Those times are gone, but will never be forgotten. He had a life well lived. R.I.P. my brother. And, my sincere condolences to Steve's family and friends~ KenSwearingen@AOL.com ~



May 8 at 2:30 PM

RW

Rita Wlodarczyk posted:

Steve is my daughter's father in law and I was fortunate to be able to Attend his service when he was a pastor. I looked forward every week to hear his sermon and the music. He was so insightful and always delivered an amazing message. I wish I had told him how much those services meant to me. After Steve and Michelle moved to Michigan they sometimes would come home during the summer to visit and we would get a chance to see them. My last memory was all of us sitting around the pool eating ice cream and that's how I want to remember him. He will be very much missed by his family and friends. Rita wlodarczyk

February 4 at 1:15 PM



Kenneth Milton Swearingen shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 8 at 2:30 PM



Kenneth Milton Swearingen May 8 at 6:34 PM

Stephen Carter Thomas, Cheryl (Davis) Thomas, Shona Thomas (1970)



Media

Stephen Carter Thomas

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KS





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Stephen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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