



Thomas W. Dykhuizen

October 29, 1967 - July 1, 2018

Thomas W. Dykhuizen, 50, of Fort Myers, Florida passed away Sunday, July 1, 2018 at his father's home in Grove City, Florida.

He was born on October 29, 1967 in Fort Wayne, Indiana to George and Doris Dykhuizen. He attended Leo High School, then Indiana University and later transferred to Florida State University where he graduated with his B.S. Degree in Marketing. It was on a trip to Europe with Leo High School that he met Edna, who would later become his wife.

After graduation from college he became a licensed real estate appraiser serving realtors and banks in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. It was this career that led him to pursue his interest in investment properties. One of his prized properties, which involved much searching to find its owner, was a 20-acre plot of land in the mountains of North Carolina, where he enjoyed many leisure moments trailblazing and hiking.

Those who knew Tom knew him for his intellect, unique sense of humor, and his love for music. Most often, if he wasn't spending quality time with his family, you could find him enjoying the sunset or playing his guitar. He was decorated with prestigious awards, such as World's Best Dad and Mario Kart Gold Cup Champion. The world lost not only a husband, but an artist. Not only a brother, but a storyteller. A father and a musician. He truly left his mark on every life he touched, and he will live on in the hearts of those who loved him. Gone, but never ever forgotten.

He is survived by his loving wife of twenty-seven years: Edna and his two daughters: Kira and Alexandria (Boo); his father: George and siblings: John, Greg and Andrea.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 6 PM at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 6465 Mayport Street, Englewood, FL 34224 with Pastor James T. Kress, Sr., officiating.

Englewood Community Funeral Home with Private Crematory has been selected to serve the family. You may share a memory with the family at www.Englewoodfh.com

Comments



“ When I think back on my life, which is what we do when someone close to us passes away, I remember a few seminal moments where everything changed. Two such moments stand out, and they are relevant today because they directly involve Tom and are the moments that helped define our friendship -- and my life.

The first was when I was 14 (Tom being a year younger). It was shortly after I met him, and while I was just discovering his intelligence, his bizarre and yet familiar sense of humor, and his enviable sense of life. I was still largely under the influence of my brother, a violent and disturbed person unable to deal with reality without the use of drugs and alcohol.

One day, as Tom and I played pool in the basement of my parents' house in Bayshore Heights, he told me a story. It was about a person he knew who had been killed while driving under the influence, and the loss had affected him greatly. And then he told me, in no uncertain terms, that if I were to continue in my brother's footsteps, if I were to continue to use drugs and engage in self-destructive behavior, then he would not be my friend.

He told me this as a mere matter of fact. He did not assume that I wanted his friendship, although I think we both suspected by then that it was something we would value. He simply made it clear that if I wanted him as a friend, then I had to turn away from those destructive tendencies that eventually ripped my brother's life apart.

I like to think that I would have eventually made the wise choice myself, without Tom's influence, that I was smart and strong enough to do the right things on my own. And perhaps I would have been, after who knows how many painful mistakes along the way and at a great price. But by presenting me with that choice, Tom forced me to make the decision with immediate clarity -- he made it easy for me to see the right thing to do.

And I have no doubt that he changed my life for the better.

The second moment that helped shape my life, that set me on a path that continues to define me to this day, is when Tom read a short passage in the liner notes on one of his favorite albums, Rush's "2112." It said, simply, "With acknowledgment to the genius of Ayn Rand."

Because Tom and I shared a lifelong love of learning and a stubbornness that rendered us unable to leave an idea alone, we researched this Ayn Rand person and discovered the writer and philosopher whose ideas informed our friendship -- and our lives -- from then on. We took turns checking out books from the Indiana University library, reading and studying Rand's novels and philosophical works, and we developed a shared understanding of the world.

That discovery kicked off both a shared passion for us and set the foundation upon

which so many conversations and explorations rested. And although I might have discovered Ayn Rand myself, without Tom's curiosity and love of music unearthing that initial nugget, I will never forget the moment when that life-altering light bulb went on for us both.

As it settles in that Tom is gone, I cannot help but look back on my life and see the profound impact that he had on the person I am today. He and I suffered the same fate as do many people who move apart and when life consumes their time and energy -- that is to say, we failed to stay in contact as we should have done. And I feel the regret that sometimes comes with such a loss, that I didn't do more to honor our friendship.

Anyone who knew Tom will remember his intelligence, his wit, his love of music and family and his profound loyalty to his most precious values. He was a rational and creative soul, and he will be missed, I know, by many people because of it.

He'll be missed by me for those things as well, and when I look in the mirror, I will see something of Tom looking back at me. And I will thank him, quietly, for helping me become who I am today, and not who I might have become.

Mark Coppock

Mark Coppock - July 10, 2018 at 12:40 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Dykhuizen.



July 09, 2018 at 10:58 PM



“ Mark Coppock and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas W. Dykhuizen.



Mark Coppock and Family - July 07, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ I don't have the right words - beyond sad. Tom was an inspiring light to me personally and I'm sure the same is true for so many others.

I don't recall everything about my high school years but the time spent with Tom was always memorable. His upbeat pitch everyday when he sold M&M's from his locker at school. A battle spraying contact lens solution - straight from the bottle - between him, myself, Rob Sanders and Dave Cartwright during a sleepover.

The tales of how he met Edna in France - and how wild he was about her . He had zero doubt that they should be together. His career objective of 'never wearing a tie' - the best career objective I have ever heard.

His love for music. At one time in school I suggested we would grow out of his love for Rush. He told me I was wrong, and indeed I was. He enjoyed riffing on my name - "Barf Jedley" being a favorite version.

I'll never forget the time Tom randomly contacted a mosquito expert visiting Fort Wayne for a conference. Tom just wanted to know more about mosquitos. I never once saw cynicism from Tom - just the power of his innocent, positive curiosity - with a dose of of quirky humour. He was one of a kind.

I'm so sorry for your loss - and shaken by this news. I'll always be grateful for having known him - and I 'm sure many others feel the same.

My wife Joan and I want to share our heartfelt sympathies to Edna, Kira, and Boo.

Jeff Bradley

Jeff Bradley - July 05, 2018 at 10:37 PM



“ Don and Bernice Richmond purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Thomas W. Dykhuizen.



Don and Bernice Richmond - July 05, 2018 at 11:39 AM



“ Wow! This was so sudden and unexpected. Tom and Edna portrayed such a loving and caring family. Every social that Gulf had during special occasions Tom and Edna would be there. I can remember the times we played beach volleyball. We did more chasing than hitting the ball. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Edna and her family.

Marty and Karen Mesch

Martin Mesch - July 04, 2018 at 11:47 AM



“ Dear Edna, Kiera & Boo,
We are so very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. May God give all of you comfort and support. Know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

In Sympathy from Bob & Amy Misick

Bob & Amy Misick - July 04, 2018 at 11:20 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Dykhuizen.



July 04, 2018 at 10:39 AM



“ Scriff McDaniels lit a candle in memory of Thomas W. Dykhuizen



Scriff McDaniels - July 04, 2018 at 09:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas W. Dykhuizen.





“ I'm still stunned by Tom's passing but I do indeed have many fond memories of him. In high school he always had me laughing and Tom was always one of those guys you wanted to hang around with. My first job out of high school was working at the Kroger grocery store and every so often Tom would drop in to say high to me. He even took a picture of me when I worked in the produce department and gave me a copy. I still have it somewhere. We often talked about his favorite band RUSH and the music scene back in the day. Ill never forget when Tom and his wife along with the girls stopped to visit me in Kentucky. We all met at a Cracker Barrel restaurant just off I-65 at Elizabethtown. That visit was so much fun and in so many ways Tom was the same old Tom that I had always known. To Tom's family, you all have my deepest and heartfelt sympathy. I will never forget him. Sincerely, Rob Sanders

Rob Sanders - July 03, 2018 at 07:48 PM