



James "Tom" Riffe

July 2, 2021

James "Tom" Riffe passed away peacefully at home July 2. He is preceded in death by his parents, James and Hester Riffe, and his brother Tim Riffe. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 44 years, Kathy, his two children Jimmy and Courtney (Daniel), and his grandson Mason, as well as four siblings and many nieces and nephews.

Tom spent his life working in the automotive field-first as a bus driver for Gold Star Tours, then at the Ford Plant where he retired after thirty years of dedicated service, and finally as a truck driving instructor at Tidewater Community College. Tom enjoyed beach vacations with his family, going offshore fishing, hunting, watching NASCAR and football. He was a lifelong fan of the Washington football team.

His family would like to thank the team at Bon Secours Hospice and in lieu of flowers would like donations to be made to them.

A celebration of his life will be held at 4pm Saturday, July 10, 2021 in Loving Funeral Home. The family will receive friends in the funeral home one hour prior to the service.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 10. 4:00 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Tribute Wall

SL

“ I only knew Tom a few years since Daniel and Courtney got married. I very much enjoyed the times I got to spend him. I enjoyed the turkey shoots and backyard cookouts with him. He was always very easy going and would do anything for you. He was a very generous person, always helping Daniel and Courtney with whatever the moment called for. My deepest thoughts and prayers are with Kathy and the family.

Steve Leonard - July 16, 2021 at 10:28 AM

RY

“ I first met Tom "Snowflake" in the mid 90's at the Catholic Club and never saw him without a smile. He seemed to always bring good vibes and happiness to everyone that was around him and he lived life to the fullest. Everyone at the club will miss him but we know he's resting in a much better place and without pain. My thoughts and prayers are with Kathy and his family as they endure this difficult period of grieving. May he always R.I.P.
Ronnie Young

Ronnie Young - July 11, 2021 at 11:15 AM

DD

“ Darline Thomas - DMV/DLQA lit a candle in memory of James "Tom" Riffe



Darline Thomas - DMV/DLQA - July 10, 2021 at 03:29 PM

LS

“ My sympathy to all the Riffe family. I knew Tommy only as a young boy. I grew up at the church in Portsmouth and I remember my parents picked them up, along with their sweet Mother, each Sunday morning. As I think back, I still wonder how we all fit in my Dad's car. Cars had much wider seats back then with no seat belts or car seat requirements. I can remember one of the boys always sat on my lap but not sure which one. They were a beautiful family and their Mother was a real jewel. My parents were close friends for so many years and absolutely adored Hester. May your dearest memories bring you comfort at this sad time and may God bless you with all you need in the days ahead.

Linda Crowe Sterling
Aiken, SC

Linda Crowe Sterling - July 10, 2021 at 11:09 AM

LI

“ I've known Mr. T for a long time and I never saw him without a smile on his face. He had the biggest heart and a smile that lit up his whole face. It doesn't seem possible that the world can keep on without him in it. He will be sorely missed.

Liam - July 08, 2021 at 08:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Tom" Riffe.



July 07, 2021 at 08:23 PM

LD

“ I have known Tom for 15 years, during his time at TCC as a cdl instructor. I have been part of the DMV CDL folks that tested his students over the years. Heavenly Father, you got a great guy in heaven!! I thoroughly enjoyed working with Tom and honored to have known him. My co-workers and I at DMV will miss him tremendously!

Lydia DeVenuto - July 07, 2021 at 04:45 PM

SS

“ I did not know Tom, but I was a good friend of his mother, Hester, from Suffolk church of Christ. Whenever she spoke about Tom, she always said he was " the sweetest and had the kindest heart." May you all be comforted in the days to come. Susan Simpkins, Sebring, FLn

Susan Simpkins - July 07, 2021 at 05:20 AM

BR

“ When I first met Tombo, he was kind enough to lend his truck to Timmy so he could come up to Canada and pick me up. Then the three of us got some grits at breakfast when we rolled in. I put sugar and milk on mine, bc I was used to eating Creme of Wheat. Tommy and Timmy laughed so hard they almost fell off their chairs. I still hadn't a clue. Love you man. I miss you already. Your with your brother now 😭

Betty Lou Riffe - July 06, 2021 at 09:01 PM

BS

I knew Tommy and Tim and his whole family. I drove with both of them at Gold Star tours owned by Jim and Hester. everybody always thought we were all brothers. Great memories. condolences to all his family. Sad day.
Bob Sutton

Bobby Sutton - July 07, 2021 at 07:49 PM

BS

Sorry to see this today. I knew Tommy and the whole family. I drove with them at Gold Star tours for many years. we traveled all over this country. Everyone thought Tim and Tom and myself were brothers. Great memories. Jim and Hester were two of the best people you'd ever want to meet. Great family. Condolences to all the family. 🙏

Bobby Sutton - July 07, 2021 at 07:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Tom" Riffe.*



July 06, 2021 at 01:55 PM

ZE

“ *Sending you all hugs and prayers. He will be missed. I always loved walking in the backyard full of kids to see Tom out there hanging with Kathy, watching the kids run around.*

Zena - July 06, 2021 at 09:45 AM