



Thomas C. Richards

May 31, 1945 - January 4, 2011

Thomas C. Richards of Cadillac died Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at Mercy Hospital in Cadillac. He was 65. He was born in Highland Park, Michigan on May 31, 1945 to William Arthur & Irene Margaret (Grubba) Richards and they preceded him in death.

He graduated from Milford High School in 1964 and served in the United States Navy during Vietnam. He had lived the past 38 years in Meauwataka. Mr. Richards had been employed at UPS for over 20 years and retired in 2002. He was a member of the Teamster's for 25 years, the Masonic Lodge of Mesick, and had been the cross country coach at Mesick High School for 6 years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and making fish spears and decoys.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, the former Debora D. Dotson whom he married June 15, 1968 in Brighton, MI; his sons: Jeffery Richards of Cadillac and Tony (Tonya) Richards of Fremont; daughter, Kimberley Richards of Schiocton, WI; grandchildren: Drew, Nicholas, Fox and Jack, brothers: Bill (Sue) Richards of Longmont, CO and Jimmy (Dorothy) Richards of Livonia; a special nephew, Danny Richards as well as many other nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brother, John Richards.

Funeral services will take place on Friday, January 7, 2011 at 11:15 AM at

Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac with Rev. Kenneth Nydam officiating and full military rites under the auspices of the Cadillac Area Honor Guard. Visitation will be Thursday (today) from 4-8 PM at the funeral home. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com

Tribute Wall

DF

“ *To Deb and family-What a wonderful man! With deepest sympathy-
Dave Fink Mason,MI*

Dave Fink - February 28, 2011 at 11:20 AM

BK

“ *Dear Debby, I got the card today telling me of your lose.. I can't tell you how sorry I am. I love that guy and we sure made the best of it while we were in the Navy. He was a great guy and a lot of fun. We had so much fun together in San Francisco, he loved when we went and visited my Aunt and Uncle, God we had fun. The time we spent in Vietnam, we made the most of it and I always could call him a true freind and my best buddie. We will all miss him.
Love Ya Deb
Bill & Pat Kopczak*

Bill & Pat Kopczak - February 07, 2011 at 09:16 PM

MB

“ Hi Deb, we are so sorry that we didn't get to the funeral, we started over there and the 4X4 went out of our car. The roads were so terrible that we were thinking about turning around, but that made our minds up fast. We will always remember Tom as the great guy he was and we have some decoys and our name fish in our window too. We used to sit and visit even if we didn't have a package coming. He would pull a chair up to the table and have " dinner" (my hillbilly(upbringing) with us. So many memories and our best to you and the family. It is a very hard time in life, and we never know when it will come. We love you and will pray for you to go forward and it does get easier, but it takes forever. Lots of hugs, Merle andBette

Merle & Bette Brown - January 09, 2011 at 07:50 PM

AR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Tom was a very special man...a great friend. We in the decoy and spear world will all miss him a bunch.

Al & Debbie Reeg - January 09, 2011 at 01:17 PM

TS

“ An old High School Classmate ... who remembers Tom as a good friend who was always happy and positive.

Tom Sheffler - January 09, 2011 at 04:51 AM

JW

“ A neighbor and a good man. Shared his knowledge freely.

John Wagner - January 07, 2011 at 10:48 PM

JW

“ Please accept our condolences. Jim was looking forward to having Tom spearfish with us this year. He will be missed by his friends in the UP.

Jim and Margie Wicks - January 07, 2011 at 10:39 PM

HM

“ just wanted to pay my respects; thank you

Harold Joe Moore - January 07, 2011 at 05:09 PM

LB

“ Dear Debora & Family ,My deepest sympathiesΓÇª I just wanted to tell you how sorry I am to hear about Tom,(I am Merle & Bette' s daughter) Tom had the most AWESOME personality... when he would deliver a package, mom & I always had cookies. We would tell him to take some along with him.... he would always say ΓÇª£can I take one to my brother too?ΓÇª¥ He was a great person and always made the people around him SMILE and feel Happy. I know Mom & Dad loved him very much! He was family to us.He sure will be missed..My Thoughts & Prayers are with you & your family during this difficult time. Hugs & Love, Loree

Loree Brown - January 07, 2011 at 01:22 PM

TT

“ Sorry about your loss. I think he just wanted to scope out the hunting and fishing in heaven before the rest of us.

Taron Tomaski - January 07, 2011 at 11:30 AM

BS

“ Deb, Kim, and Jeff; so sorry to hear of Tom' s passing. I send my condolences. He was such a nice man.

Brian Simerson - January 07, 2011 at 10:06 AM

GM

“ In July of 2010 I did a photo shoot with Tom in his spear shop which I would like to share with you. Paste this link into the URL field of your RSS reader: <http://photocast.me.com/garylmiller/iPhoto/in-memory-of-tom-richards/index.rss> ”

Gary L. Miller - January 07, 2011 at 07:53 AM

DS

“ Debbie and family,
Our sincerest condolences. I cannot believe I will not be seeing him walking in to Meijers and asking me if I am " still smiling"
as he was always smiling!

David & Delma Staffin - January 06, 2011 at 11:54 PM

RW

“ Dear Deb,
Deepest sympathies to you and your family. We will miss answering the phone and hearing his voice saying "
Hello, this is Tom Richards from downtown Meauwataka. We will miss him.

Ross & Jackie Willis - January 06, 2011 at 08:48 PM

HR

“ Debora and Family, We have so many great memories of Tom. He had such enthusiasm for the sport of decoy carving and spearmaking. And He shared that with us and everyone. We miss him. You are in our prayers.

Harley & Debbie Ragan - January 06, 2011 at 08:47 PM

MH

“ Dear Debora & Family,
Please accept my deepest sympathies.
Tom was a special friend and he will be dearly missed.
You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult
time. God Bless, Mike Hale

Mike Hale - January 06, 2011 at 06:57 PM

LD

“ Debora and family. Your friends from Milford send their sympathy.
Tom will be missed by all of us, but we still have the wonderful
memories he helped create.

Linda Dagenhardt - January 06, 2011 at 06:05 PM

DL

“ he was a dear friend and will be missed by all.....

Daniel R. Lockwood - January 06, 2011 at 04:46 PM

DG

“ to the family, we are very sad and sorry to hear of Tom's passing, from
the Christmas trees to the spears, that what brings him to mind, may
he rest in peace

DAN & MARIEM GRAY - January 06, 2011 at 12:51 PM

RB

“ Tom has been a special friend for years. He was always in the UPS mode - even after he retired. Pop in - Pop out - always had time for a cup of coffee though - even if it was " to go" . Our kids had their names cut out in wood hanging in their room - Rich has a decoy and a spear Tom made. We will think of him every time we use it. Tom touched everyone he met and won't be forgotten.

Rich & Susan Baldwin - January 06, 2011 at 11:26 AM

JB

“ Hello Debora and family.
We send this with our condolences.
Sincerely
Jerry & Jane Bynum
Packwaukee, WI

Jerry & Jane Bynum - January 06, 2011 at 10:15 AM