



Thomas W. Bates

April 21, 1960 - January 1, 2021

Tom Bates lost his battle with Multiple Sclerosis on January 1, 2021, at the young age of 60 years old. He never gave up and fought it hard.

Tom was born on April 21, 1960, the son of William and Bertha (Albano) Bates in Chicago, Illinois. His life was full of friends from his childhood in Chicago, to his new childhood friends in Calumet City, after his father moved the family to a bigger home in the South Suburbs.

Tom loved sports; he played baseball, softball, hockey and golf. He enjoyed Muscle cars and motorcycles. Tom was an avid collector of many different items. He started collecting at a very young age. And continued into his adult life. His goal was to always pay cash for whatever he purchased, including the large purchases. He was very proud of his purchases and kept them pristine.

Tom worked for Federal Signal Corporation and made a lot of friends there. He then moved on to become a C Card for IBEW Local 134 in Chicago. He worked at Grinnell Corporation until his diagnosis with MS.

Tom wrote poetry, mostly of actual events in his life. And he was a pretty good poet. He designed, manufactured and received a patent for a baseball card display. He was full of surprises. Especially his magic tricks! Tom was genuine, kind, generous, honest and courageous!

Tom is survived by his mother, Bertha; his brother Billy (Sue) and sister Linda Orze; nephews, Chuck (Sandy), Billy, and niece Lisa; great-nephews and niece, Justin (Brianna), Jessica, Hunter and great-great nephew, Jameson.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Bates.

Tom's family, many friends and three Caregivers, Nick & Mari Ann Sopcich, and Shirley will miss him dearly.

No services are scheduled per Tom's request. Memorials contributions may be made to Multiple Sclerosis foundation.

Tribute Wall

SG

“ Tom was a good man and a hard worker. It was a shock the night of March 29th, 2001 when Tom was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. But he was determined to fight it. Going to all the different therapies, he got back his facial use, speech and legs. He was a fighter and continued to try to do tasks that were much harder due to the MS. For 20 years he fought this horrible disease. I give him so much credit for his determination, strength and tenacity. He is with his father now, reminiscing all the good times at the farm. May God rest his soul. We will all miss you dearly!
Sincerely, Shirley Glowacki

Shirley Glowacki - January 08, 2021 at 06:16 PM

BW

Not only was Tom a good worker and great guy, but he was good for a laugh. He always had a good story to tell about something that happened to him, and how he handled it. Just the way he would tell the story; it was just like if you were right there. And it was always a laugh. Tom, we all miss you very much. Bert Woess. Friend and former neighbor.

Bert Woess - January 08, 2021 at 10:48 PM

AK

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Tommy, he will be missed by all his friends. We often thought of him and were wondering what he was doing and how he was doing but we didn't know if he moved away when his family did. No one kept in touch with us. He'll be in our prayers. Augie & Peggy Kapusta

Augie & Peggy Kapusta - January 06, 2021 at 11:43 AM