



Thomas Richard Bovee



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Thomas Richard Bovee

Thomas Bovee Obituary

Thomas Richard Bovee Thomas was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 14, 1951. He was raised in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He moved to Denver, Colorado and resided there over 45 years. Tom met his husband, Andrew S. Hamano, there in 1984 and they resided together for 30 years before marrying on February 14, 2015.

Tom received his undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati. He obtained his paralegal certificate from the Denver Paralegal Institute. Tom was employed for over 20 years at the Colorado Department of Law, Attorney General's Office. After retiring he and Andy moved to Kauai in 2016 where they resided until Tom's passing.

Tom had a passion for birds. He and Andy were parents to several cockatiels, parakeets and a lorikeet. Tom volunteered for the Gabriel Foundation that is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating exotic birds such as macaws, parrots and cockatiels. He also volunteered for Denver W.I.L.D. Bird. After moving to Kauai, Tom volunteered for Save Our Shearwaters.

Thomas passed away on December 24, 2024 following a brief illness. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Inez (Niswonger) Bovee, and brother-in-law, George Dicke. He is survived by his husband, Andrew S. Hamano, siblings, Diane Bovee Jenkins, Debra Dicke and Michael (Maria Pacheco) Bovee. Many nephews, nieces, grand nephews and nieces also survive him. Tom was a devoted husband, son, brother and uncle. He had many friends and will be deeply missed by all.

You may honor Thomas by donating blood or make donations to Save Our Shearwaters.

To send flowers to the family, please visit our floral store.

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Tribute Wall

Thomas Richard Bovee



Michael Santistevan posted:

I met Tom in 1984 when he and Andy were newly a couple. Tom's unabashed and unapologetic embrace of his truth was a revelation, and his generosity of spirit and friendship were a great gift to people like me who were just starting to discover and accept who we are. His refusal to adhere to any stereotype was refreshing (and revolutionary), and his wry humor and great wit made any gathering better. He and Andy may never know how deeply they influenced me; how their fidelity to each other gave me hope that such a thing was possible; how their shared vision of what their future could look like has borne fruit in their retirement together in what truly was their paradise. The news of Tom's sudden death is crushing. I can only be grateful that Andy could be there - as always - at his side through his short but brutal illness. I will remember Tom's kindness, his integrity, his intelligence, and his laugh. I will be forever grateful for his friendship. My heart goes out to Andy and to his family. May his memory be a blessing.

February 8 at 9:28 AM



Tribute Wall

Thomas Richard Bovee

BH

Bryn Hamano posted:

My Uncle Tom was an incredibly special human being. I could see in his eyes, heart and actions that he cared deeply for others. As he got older, I could see this compassion and empathy for others grow for both humans and animals alike. When I think of him, I think of his fondness for birds and his many selfless acts to benefit our winged friends and anyone in need. He was always busy studying, volunteering for, or adopting birds. I really respected this about him and that he carried it out as a life legacy. My favorite memories with Uncle Tom are from adulthood. I think that we both were maturing in similar ways in our timeline. My first fond memory was when he surprised me in Denver with an outing to see a group of differently-abled actors perform a theatrical number. I believe he was volunteering with this company at the time. It was incredibly inspiring. It helped me see a different, better way of being as an artist and a human. Uncle was a community builder and a devoted family man. His presence in the many communities he became involved in was greatly appreciated. His kind and loving presence within our family will never be forgotten. On a family trip to the Big Island in Hawaii, Uncle invited me to do a full island tour one day, just me and him. We drove the circumference of the island that day and even hiked into an active volcano field together. It was a truly magical experience. The topography of that island is very vast and to experience it all together in one day was wild. I felt like we lived a whole lifetime together in 8 hours. It was beautiful. His adventurous spirit showed up again on another island adventure. In 2015, he and my Uncle Andy retired to Kauai, their home away from home. I took a trip to visit them, shortly thereafter. I wanted to do something very dangerous, lol... scale a sheer cliff into a waterfall. Uncle Tom agreed, though he by no means had to. I could tell that he was feeling the call of adventure. It was treacherous, but worth it. Absolutely stunning. By treacherous, I mean that we were literally holding onto tree roots to scale down the muddy mountain with little to no trail. It was not for the faint of heart. Tom's heart was courageous, wild and generous. That day, we were misted by the waterfall, elated from the climbing... really, just feeling alive on planet earth. I love and respect my Uncle Tom for many reasons. Mainly, that he taught me to seize the moment, be bold and brave.... Have compassion for others, human or Aves. My uncle will be truly and deeply missed. He made his mark on this planet. He shined his love and light to every being he encountered. With love & deep gratitude, Tom's niece, Brynnie

January 14 at 6:17 AM

LM

Leo Aka Mitch posted:

Leo aka MitchTom took me in for a couple of months when I needed a home. Both Andy and Tom treated me very nicely and I still remember until this day how we cleaned the rooms every Saturday, how Nick shat on me, and how Tom took care of me and then forced me to walk out of the room when I was depressed for several days. I have seen him smile and cry. And I can almost still hear his laughers. May you have the wings now - I always know you have.

January 16 at 7:14 AM



Tribute Wall

Thomas Richard Bovee



Ken And Mary Daubert posted:

In recent years Mary and I enjoyed dinners and special occasions with Tom and Andy. We met at the Kauai Athletic Club where the guys were regulars, and I once commented to Tom how consistent and devoted they were to their exercise routines. He told me that when he and Andy retired, their commitment to classes and workouts at the club became their new "job". Whenever Tom would see me huffing and puffing on the rowing machine he would always stop by to say hello. He was an easy person to be with, unpretentious and happy by nature. His love of birds included not only his and Andy's pets but extended to all feathered creatures. At one of our restaurant outings I suggested a chicken dish to which he replied, "Oh, we don't eat birds." Our hearts go out to Andy and family at this time of sadness. Tom's passing has given us pause to consider how each day with our loved ones is a gift to be cherished. Tom was a true gentleman and will be missed.

January 16 at 12:22 AM



Tribute Wall

Thomas Richard Bovee

DN

Dan Newland posted:

It was with profound sadness that I learned of Tom's death. My deepest condolences go to his husband Andy, his sisters Dianne and Debra, his brother Mike, and all the rest of his family and friends who loved him and will miss him. Tom and I were friends throughout our pre-teen, teen and young adult years. We first met when our fathers, Lloyd and Whitie, decided one year that our families would spend a one-week summer vacation together on a small lake near Traverse City where Tom's family had two cottages. Both of our dads were WWII vets. Both suffered from what was known then as "manic depression", and I recall that they spent long hours sitting in Michigan chairs in the shade near the beach chatting. Our complicated but loving relationships with our dads were something Tom and I had in common from the outset. If, for our fathers, that vacation was, perhaps, a time for mutual reflection, for us kids, it was a vacation of constant fun and adventure. Our sisters, Dianne and Darla were the same age (teenagers), and Tom and I were younger and a year apart. I think I was twelve and Tom was eleven. We all hit it off and had a really great time. The high point was when the four of us took a local bus to town. On our older sisters' suggestion we went to see a movie. The film they wanted to see was *The Rat Race*, a hardboiled urban drama about a naïve sax-player (Tony Curtis), and a by now cynical and struggling model and "taxi-dancer" (Debbie Reynolds) sharing a down-at-heel New York City apartment. The other character I recall vividly was Don Rickles as the unscrupulous dancehall owner under whom Reynolds' character ends up prostituting herself to pay for a new sax for her friend after his is stolen. At that age, Tom and I were more into *Dracula*, *Frankenstein* and *The Mummy*. But we were both, as it turned out, suckers for a good story and, although we were too young to understand the entire plot, we were still blown away by that film that none of our parents would have let us see had they known. Ever the joker, among other novelties that we took back with us from our adventure in town—milk chocolate "cigarettes" with shiny gold "filters", sour grape gum and some of the Good & Plenty candy leftover from the movie—Tom bought himself a "whoopee cushion" and for several days we both found utmost hilarity in placing it on our parents' and sisters' chairs, until everybody told us enough was enough. The two families never went on vacation together again, but Tom and I remained friends and were mutual friends with another boy from our home town, Mark Gallimore. We all had a lot in common since we were readers, movie buffs and all three liked to draw. I just liked to draw, but Tom and Mark were both consummate artists already in their teens. We once entered a Halloween art contest together in which we used tempera paint to decorate the window of a local hardware store. After brief minutes of working on the most ghoulish mural we could create, I decided art would be better served by my sticking to filling in flat colors and washing the brushes for Tom and Mark, since they were in a league of their own when it came to artistic creation. By the way, our mural won the contest. The three of us would remain close friends until life happened and took us all our separate ways. I'm so glad that Tom and I were able to reconnect on social media a few years back and to share some of memories of those boyhood times, more than half a century ago. Tom was a kind, intelligent, sensitive, funny and courageous person we were all lucky to know. I'll miss him. We'll miss him. -Dan Newland-

January 14 at 6:17 AM



Tribute Wall

Thomas Richard Bovee

JC

Joseph Conrad Clifford posted:

We acted together to spread another friends ashes in achallenging spot and he kept me from falling into said ashes A good friend and a good man

January 15 at 5:12 AM

CL

Cheryl Linden posted:

I've known Tom for 30 plus years. When we became friends, I knew I could talk to him about anything, and talk we did. He was smart, funny and compassionate. He and Andy helped me care for my pets when I was going through some health issues, and they helped me heal from those issues, including by taking a trip with me to Hawaii (before they had moved there). They are both so kind. Tom, I love you and I miss you.

January 15 at 2:35 AM

SS

Susan M Smith posted:

Tom and I worked together many years at the Colorado Attorney General's Office. He and I (and sometimes Andy) were members of the same book club for decades. Tom was one of the kindest and smartest people I've ever known. I loved his wry, acerbic humor, his insights, and his honesty. News of his death is crushing. Everyone who knew him will miss him. He was a remarkable human being, and my heart goes out to his family, his friends, and especially his beloved, Andy.

January 14 at 11:28 PM

LA

Laura posted:

Thank you Tom for all the fun and great spirit you brought us , specially to our hula class . You loved your Amy songs and was almost always on time . It Was Fun and you sure enjoyed our classes .We have been practicing your favorite song and will dance it every week . I am so going to miss you . Especially on Fridays , never no more a quick joke , laugh and a hight five or hug xx

January 14 at 8:48 AM

DJ

David Jaramillo posted:

I have very fond memories of my years in Denver and getting to know Tom. I'm glad that he had Andy for a partner. They were such a great couple! I will miss him as I haven't gotten to Kauai since they moved there in their retirement years.

January 14 at 8:00 AM



Tribute Wall

Thomas Richard Bovee

DV

Darrell Vigil posted:

My condolences to Andy and Tom's loved ones.

January 14 at 6:53 AM

TB

Trudy And Jerry Boggs posted:

We have been Tom's friends for the past few years having met he and Andy through mutual friends on our annual visits to Kauai from our home in Oregon. We shared many adventures with him ... hiking, biking, paddle boarding, eating, etc. We were biking and sharing time with Tom a month prior to his passing. What fun we had. We will miss him terribly. Thanks for your friendship, Tom and big hugs being sent to Andy.

January 14 at 6:24 AM

KF

Kevin Falk posted:

I had the pleasure of meeting Tom while volunteering for NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Count project. His passion for nature was immediately apparent, especially his love for birds—so much so that he was the first person I met who would eat meat but not fowl of any kind. Tom's dedication to learning and playing the ukulele was inspiring. He approached it with enthusiasm and joy, adding a unique and heartwarming element to his appreciation for performing arts. I will always cherish the time spent hiking and biking with Tom and Andy. Their shared love of adventure and the outdoors made every outing a special experience. Getting to know Tom and Andy on the island was a true blessing. Tom's kindness, humor, and deep appreciation for the natural world, the arts, and life itself left a lasting impression. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

January 14 at 6:17 AM

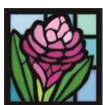


Memories only last if you share them

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



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