



Eldon Lee Thomas

April 7, 1948 - February 15, 2015

Eldon Lee Thomas, age 66 of Albia, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2015, after a lengthy illness.

He was born April 7, 1948, to Maurice and Beulah (Clawson) Thomas in Leon, Iowa. The majority of his childhood was spent in Decatur County, Iowa. He attended school in Central Decatur, graduating with the class of 1966. He later attended Northeast Missouri State University for a year and obtained a degree in geological studies from a college in Rapid City, South Dakota. He met and married Linda Colleen McCombs while in college in 1968, and they celebrated 46 years of marriage this past September.

Eldon was an adventurer, philosopher, artist, cartoonist, story-teller, carpenter, mechanic, handyman, comedian, musician, and lover of nature. He had the strength of a giant and the heart of a poet. His adventurous spirit and love of the land took him through a number of careers and locations including lumberjacking in the mountains of Montana, working for the Soil Conservation Service in Decatur County, writing comic strips and other journalistic activities during the years in Leon, Iowa and New Mexico, college studies in the Black Hills of South Dakota and geophysical surveying in New Mexico, Texas, and California. Probably his most favorite career though, was as a long-haul truck driver during his years in Iowa and again later while the family lived in Texas. Trucking gave him the opportunity to see the nation from coast-to-coast and

feed his enthusiasm for history and sociology

Eldon is survived by his wife, Colleen of Albia; his mother, Beulah Clawson of Leon; two daughters, Barbara (Ed) Ford of Aurora, Colorado and Keri Thomas of San Angelo, Texas; two grandchildren, Erin and Alex of Aurora, Colorado; a sister, Diana (Mark) Nigon of Montana; and his mother-in-law, Byrle McCombs. He is also survived and much loved by extended family of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family would like to thank his care-giver Mary Shelker for her friendship and care she gave to Eldon in the last few years, Paula Paris as his personal care visiting nurse, as well as the countless members of the medical staff at Monroe County Hospital and University of Iowa Medical Center

Eldon was a brother in Christ and took great comfort in the fellowship he enjoyed at St. Mary's Church as well as the friendship and support from the Trinity Methodist Church

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; his father, Maurice Thomas; and his father-in-law, George McCombs.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 21, 2015 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, with Father Michael E. Volkmer, C.P.P.S. officiating. A private family burial will be held at a later date.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Friday, February 20, 2015 at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Eldon's family present from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. A 4:00 p.m. rosary will be led by the Altar and Rosary society and a wake service will be held at 6:00 p.m.

An open memorial has been established.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eldon Lee Thomas*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Eldon Lee Thomas*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Eldon was a tremendous "growing-up-together" buddy. From school bus rides from north of Leon thru Decatur activities with visits to Aunt Ada's house and MYF and overnights and high school --all these will sustain us 'til we meet again on the "other side". Heartfelt condolences go out to Beulah, Colleen, Diana et al. Dannie and Marilyn Akers--Joplin. Mo.*

Dannie and Marilyn Akers - joplin, MO - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *We met Eldon and Coleen in 2007, all 4 of us seemed to hit it off right from the beginning. They were attending to their beautiful garden out behind the barn which stood between their house and ours. Eldon one day, came driving across the property in his black Monte Carlo to visit us as we were sitting on the patio. This was really funny to me as I was raised in the city and not use to people driving up in my back yard. He had such a good personality, very kind and generous, as does his wife Coleen. He will be greatly missed by Cliff and I as I am sure many other. Our condolences go out to his wife Coleen, their children and all of the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time in your lives. Love Cliff & Carolyne Benboe*

Cliff & Carolyne Benboe - Portland, OR - Friends - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

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Love Cliff & Carolyne Benboe

Cliff & Carolyne Benboe - Portland, OR - Friends - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ So sorry to hear of Eldon's passing. Our condolences to his family.

Mark and Lynn Kilgore - Dubuque, IA - acquaintance - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I did not know Eldon well at all..He just struck me ..as genuinely nice.. a good man. I sat near him in Church and I believe we have shared a hand shake...I feel like I will miss him though. :) I just read through his beautiful obituary and the love that you all show in it touched my heart. I did not know all of those things about him...but ..I felt like he was special..truly special..I love the idea that it says philosopher adventurer cartoonist. I think that resonated with me. and although I did not know him..I am happy for him..the way that he lived. I am sure he will be missed by many. Love to you all.

Karen M. Kearney - Albia, IA - I go to St. Mary's - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ *Our condolences to Eldon's family. Eldon was my classmate @ friend.*

Ed @ Debby Van Nostrand - Sterling, CO - friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *Colleen & Family,*

Phil & I were saddened to read of Eldon's death. We hope you will find comfort in knowing that his suffering is over and he is in a wonderful place without the pain that he has endured for so long. We send our condolences & sincerest sympathy.

Warmest regards,

Linda & Phil Lospalluto

Linda Lospalluto - Chatsworth, CA - Friends - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Beulah, Diane, Colleen and all,*

I have many wonderful childhood memories with Eldon and recall his giving spirit. My heart goes out to all for your loss and I will extend the same on behalf of my Dad, Bob Burchett.

May your faith sustain you.

Fondly, Lynda

Lynda Burchett - Houston, TX - Cousin - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“ *i am so sorry for your loss ... he was a wonderful man and meant so much to me and my family i have so many great memories of him and the kids... i will cherish them forever.. love you all*

jessica - IA - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *Colleen and Family,
Our sympathy in your loss. We didn't know Eldon personally but we did observe his determination in attending Mass and RCIA classes at St. Mary's.
May you all find comfort in memories of good times together.
Sincerely,
Patty and Tom*

Patty & Tom Hannam - Albia, IA - Friends/classmates of Colleen - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM