



Elwood Ray Tharp

March 10, 1947 - June 4, 2021

Elwood Ray Tharp, age 74, of Albia, IA, passed away on Friday, June 4, 2021, at MercyOne West Lakes in Des Moines, Iowa, surrounded by his 3 sons.

Elwood was born on March 10, 1947, to Frank William and Fae Madeline (Graham) Tharp in Moline, IL. He grew up and attended Henrico High School in Richmond, Virginia. He served his country as a radio man in the United States Navy on the U.S.S. Epping Forest, U.S.S. Constant, and U.S.S. Warbler during Vietnam. After returning home from the service, he attended Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa and received a degree in Air Frame & Power Plant. On January 16, 1971, he was united in marriage to Davida Brandon at the First Baptist Church in Albia and to this union, 3 sons were born, Frank, Tom, and Richard. Elwood and Davida later divorced.

Elwood worked at Goode Feed & Seed before going to work for Paul Cabel as a tool and die maker where he helped perfect a process for making powdered metal bushings. He later went to work at Chicago Rivet in Albia before taking a job at 3M in Knoxville where he worked in maintenance from 1979 until his retirement in 2008.

Over the years, Elwood enjoyed ham radios, going to sprint car races, and metal detecting. He loved to visit with others and never knew a stranger. He enjoyed going for rides, especially around the lake, and was always up for

riding along with any of his sons or friends anywhere they may be going. He enjoyed attending auctions and was a John Deere tractor enthusiast. Above all else, Elwood's family was everything to him. He loved traveling to see his family and cherished the time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Elwood is survived by his 3 sons, Frank (Annie) Tharp, Tom Tharp, and Richard (Monica) Tharp, all of Albia; 2 grandchildren, Brandon and Frankie Fae Tharp; and 3 siblings, Yvonne (Harry) Shertzer of Pfafftown, North Carolina, Richard (Cherry) Tharp of McGaheysville, Virginia, and Bill (Kelly) Tharp of Powhatan, Virginia. Elwood is also survived by a special friend, Ruth and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends, all of whom he loved dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Fae Tharp; a sister, Mary in infancy; and a nephew, Graham Tharp.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Elwood's family present throughout the day and evening to greet family and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, June 11, 2021, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Pastor Roger Henry and Pastor Richard Grimes co-officiating. Burial with military honors provided by the American Legion of Albia, Melrose, and Lovilia will follow services at Bethel Cemetery in Mahaska County.

A memorial has been established to the Bethel Church.

Cemetery Details

Bethel Cemetery

Albia, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 10. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN 11. 10:30 AM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Elwood Ray Tharp*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Elwood Ray Tharp*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *I was extremely saddened to hear of the passing of my devoted, honored friend Woody Tharp. Woody was a true and compassionate individual who always displayed a jovial, friendly attitude to all. His presence at the ship's yearly reunions was always enhanced by his wit and colorful stories of past adventures. I will miss my dear friend, as will all of your shipmates. May God bless you and your family and hold you close.*

Mike Ash, USS CONSTANT MSO-427

Michael L. Ash - July 10, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ *Elwood was a great cousin, friend and someone I always looked up to and admired. We would talk from time to time but today when I called, it was too late. Fair Winds and Following Seas to a great family member and War Veteran who fought valiantly for the United States of America! I'll miss you Elwood!*

Steve Tharp - June 30, 2021 at 11:50 AM

DA

“ USS Constant reunions were always joyous times.
“Fair winds and following seas” ol’ shipmate.

DjPerkins

Dan - June 28, 2021 at 09:58 AM

EG

“ Thinking of all the Tharp's today. Prayers and our sympathy

Del and Elaine

Elaine Griffin - June 11, 2021 at 10:03 AM

JA

“ Jan Allison lit a candle in memory of Elwood
Ray Tharp



Jan Allison - June 10, 2021 at 10:26 AM

JA

Richard, Frank, and Tom. So sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts are with you.

Jan Allison - June 10, 2021 at 10:27 AM

CC

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Woody's passing. Mike and I used to work with him at Rivets. He was a very nice man! So sorry for your loss Tharp family💔

Carol Cosgrove - June 10, 2021 at 05:50 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 09, 2021 at 11:09 AM



“ *Martin McCombs & family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



Martin McCombs & family - June 09, 2021 at 09:43 AM



“ *Jim Adamson and the rest of the Batesville Family! purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



Jim Adamson and the rest of the Batesville Family! - June 09, 2021 at 09:12 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 09, 2021 at 07:24 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 09, 2021 at 03:02 AM



“ *Richard, Frank & Tom
Just a note to express our thoughts and prayers for all the family during these difficult days...Take care! Paul & Jackie Maddy*

jackie maddy - June 08, 2021 at 04:07 PM



“ *Tom & Cindy Jenkins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



Tom & Cindy Jenkins - June 08, 2021 at 01:12 PM



“ *I went on my first job with Woody when i joined the maintenance dept. at 3m. He made me feel welcomed and was eager to help me feel a part of the repair group. So sorry for your loss. He came to visit me last summer during the pandemic I don't think he felt real good then. He was a very competent and talented man .I'm glad to have known him and proud to have called him friend..Jelly Rankin*

jerald rankin - June 08, 2021 at 08:34 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 07, 2021 at 10:58 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. We always enjoyed our visits with Elwood as you are correct he didn't know a stranger (I'm thinking we had that in common)... God Bless your family at this time of loss & celebration of life. He loved life & always has a nice smile.*

Marla (Randy) Bronson - June 07, 2021 at 10:15 PM



“ *Touching Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 07, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 07, 2021 at 07:52 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 07, 2021 at 05:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 07, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ *Elwood always had time to stop and chat to see how you were doing and just say hello. A really good guy!*

Greg Mattis - June 07, 2021 at 01:54 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.*



June 06, 2021 at 05:33 PM

LW

“ *Lauranda Way lit a candle in memory of Elwood Ray Tharp*



Lauranda Way - June 05, 2021 at 11:32 PM

LW

My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I'm so sorry to hear this.

Lauranda Way - June 05, 2021 at 11:33 PM

DM

Woody was so much more than a great friend He was a true friend for way over 40 years . He was there for the good times times at the lake, road trips, projects, and so much more. but as a true friend he was there to help when things went wrong so many times. Few people have someone who always have their back like we did, He was a blessing to our family, he was so much more than a friend he was family and we will cherish the memories always and thank God for the time we had. Our hearts go out to Woodys family God Bless.

Dave & Karen McCombs

David McCombs - June 08, 2021 at 11:44 PM

CC

“ *Condolences and prayers for the family* 🙏🙏
🙏



Cathy Courtney - June 05, 2021 at 09:38 PM

DC

“ My sympathies to Woody's family. I worked years with Woody at 3M. He took pride in his work and performed his jobs in a timely manner. Woody was an excellent communicator and I loved the stories that he told. Woody was genuine and a wonderful man. Dan Crews

Dan Crews - June 05, 2021 at 08:30 PM

MS

“ I had many good conversations at 3M with Woody. Enjoyed every one of them. My sympathies to all of his family.

Mary Winfield Schutjer - June 05, 2021 at 07:49 PM

CL

“ My sympathies to the family. I always enjoyed talking with Woody at work. He was a friend of my Uncle Jim O'Brien and would tell me stories about their friendship

Connie Lenger - June 05, 2021 at 07:39 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.



June 05, 2021 at 07:30 PM

JS

“ Elwood was like family to our family and was a true friend of many years to us through life's good times and bad times. Elwood had a huge heart, loved people, and would do anything to help others out. He looked forward to family, fellow veterans, and friends get-togethers and reunions. Being a Grandpa to Brandon and Frankie were special highlights in Elwood's life and he loved any time he was able to spend visiting with or going on outings with them. He loved his three boys very much and talked often of Frank & Annie, Tom, and Richard & Monica. His sons chose wives who held a special place in Elwood's heart. I have heard Elwood talk often about his beloved siblings and their families in the Virginia area and always felt his heart was divided between there and Albia, IA with him making a lot of trips between the two over the years. I am thankful to his special friend, Ruth, for the love and companionship she brought to Elwood's life. Here's to you, Elwood, our dear friend. You were deeply loved and will be sadly missed. We were beyond blessed to have had you in our lives. John and Jana Simmons

John and Jana Simmons - June 05, 2021 at 07:24 PM

DS

“ I always seemed to run into Elwood at HyVee! Always asking me if I was staying out of trouble:) Sad to hear of his passing.

Deeanna Smith - June 05, 2021 at 06:59 PM

MC

“ Max Cox lit a candle in memory of Elwood Ray Tharp



Max Cox - June 05, 2021 at 06:53 PM

CS

So sorry. Elwood was a good friend. He will be missed. We loved hearing his stories of his escapades while growing up. RIP

carl & Elaine Spaur - June 06, 2021 at 09:23 AM

CP

“ Elwood always greeted me with a smile and was ready to spend time visiting.

Colleen Putnam - June 05, 2021 at 05:51 PM

RM

“ Thinking of you boys and your families. Elwood said "Hi" whenever I seen him. He will surely be missed.

Rhonda McGee - June 05, 2021 at 05:16 PM

RM

“ Rhonda McGee lit a candle in memory of Elwood Ray Tharp



Rhonda McGee - June 05, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elwood Ray Tharp.



June 05, 2021 at 04:40 PM