



## Thomas Elwood Stafford

October 29, 1944 - September 20, 2017

Thomas Elwood Stafford, age, 72 of Albia, passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2017, surrounded by his family at his home in Albia under the care of Care Initiatives Hospice.

He was born on October 29, 1944, to John Elwood and Irene (DeLong) Stafford in Brompton, Iowa. He graduated from Albia High School with the class of 1963 and later received his 2 year A.A. Degree from Centerville Community College. Tom served his country in the United States Army. On March 25, 1967 Tom married Julie Kness at the Methodist Church in Albia. They shared 50 years of marriage and were blessed with three children; Jill, John and Josh.

Tom worked as a licensed plumber for Hiland Plumbing in Des Moines for 10 years before taking a job as a facility and maintenance supervisor at the Lutheran Hospital in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. He retired from the hospital in 2004. Tom was a member of the American Legion Howard Cessna Post 136 in Albia. He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing and helping others with home improvement projects. His real joy in life was spending time with his friends and family.

Tom is survived by his wife, Julie Stafford of Albia; his children, John (Rebecca) Stafford of Osseo, WI., Josh Stafford of Fort Walton Beach, FL., and Jill (Rob) Onnen of Grundy Center, IA; five grandchildren, Brooke

Almond, Jocilyn Onnen, Kayla Stafford, Trent Trubshaw, and Dane Stafford. Tom is also survived by a brother, Jeff (Jean) Stafford of Shreveport, LA; two sisters, Rosalie Hughes of Knoxville, IA, and Karen Carter of Windsor Heights, IA; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents, J. Elwood and Irene; a brother, Philip Stafford; a sister in infancy, Priscilla Ann Stafford; a brother-in-law Jerry Archibald and a mother-in-law, Phyllis Kness.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, September 24, 2017, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Pastor Richard Grimes officiating with military rites provided by the American Legion of Albia, Melrose and Lovilia. A private family burial will be held at a later date.

Visitation will begin at 3:00 p.m. until the time of service on Sunday, September 24, 2017, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Tom's family present to greet family and friends.

An open memorial has been established in Tom's name to be determined at a later date.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **24.** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

## Celebration of Life

SEP **24.** 5:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Elwood Stafford*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



*I knew Tom when were were kids.He lived in Albia and I lived in Centerville. We were both attending the juco in Centerville at the same time. He was a good fellow. My sister dated hjs older brother Phil for a while. R.I.P, Tom.*

**Dan Gleason** - August 15, 2025 at 01:18 AM



“ *Thomas Elwood Stafford*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Tom was a wonderful and faithful friend. He was my hero. Jim Forgy*

**Jim Forgy** - September 22, 2017 at 10:36 AM

RM

“ Julie and family,

*I'm so sorry to hear of this, Tom was such a close and good friend so many years ago. I'll never forget all the fun times cruising around in that "beige Lark". We even put it in the ditch one night going to Melrose. I remember the night we heard for the first time the Righteous Brothers, "Unchained Melody" and Tom turned up the radio and said, "who the hell is that?". Also, how kind his parents were to me in their old house and the "basement" of the new before they added the upper floor.*

*I know we want our past to live forever, but life doesn't give us that. So we need to hold on to the good memories and cherish the times we've had. Tom is a good memory and I cherish our times.*

*Fondly,*

*Ralph Mullinix*

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**Ralph Mullinix** - September 21, 2017 at 10:18 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Thomas Elwood Stafford.*



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September 21, 2017 at 08:54 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Thomas Elwood Stafford.*



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September 21, 2017 at 07:26 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Elwood Stafford.*



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September 21, 2017 at 07:22 PM



“ *Mike & Terri Scully & Family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Thomas Elwood Stafford.*



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**Mike & Terri Scully & Family** - September 21, 2017 at 06:59 PM



“ *Julie and family, I am sending my thoughts and prayers at this time of Tom's passing. I'm sure you all will miss him terribly but know he isn't suffering anymore. Hugs!!!*

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**Kate Brock** - September 21, 2017 at 06:05 PM

DR

“ We are so sorry Julie, John, Josh and Jill and family. We have a lot of memories about Tom, he was a fun guy. At our Class reunion's and living next to you in Indianola. He will be missed.

*Will be thinking and praying for all of you. God Bless*

*Our deepest sympathies,*

*Dennis and Marilyn Roach*

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**Dennis and Marilyn Roach** - September 21, 2017 at 04:25 PM

JO

*Thank you Dennis and Marilyn. He was an original and one that cannot be duplicated!!! We have a lot of good memories with him!!!*

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**Jill (Stafford) Onnen** - September 21, 2017 at 04:50 PM

JE

“ Jess, Sam, Reagan & Elle purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Thomas Elwood Stafford.



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**Jess, Sam, Reagan & Elle** - September 21, 2017 at 04:03 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Thomas Elwood Stafford.



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September 21, 2017 at 03:27 PM