



## Thomas Stork

January 7, 1948 - April 29, 2026

Together we say farewell to our beloved husband, father, brother and friend. Thomas Stork passed away at his rural Carroll home on April 29, 2026, after confronting cancer with extraordinary strength. He was 78 years old.

Tom's family will host a celebration of life gathering on Sunday May 31, beginning with military honors at 3:00pm at St. Bernard's Cemetery in Breda. Visits and greetings will follow from 3:30-4:30pm at old Zeke's in Breda, with tributes of remembrance at 4:30pm at the Breda Legion. Guests are asked to enter through the east entrance of the Legion.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll. Online condolences may be left for Tom's family at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

Tom was born January 7, 1948, the fifth of seventeen children to Mathias and Mary Ann (Grabner) Stork. Raised on a farm west of Breda, he learned early the values of hard work, resilience and integrity. These qualities shaped every part of his life.

After graduating from St. Bernard High School in Breda in 1966, Tom attended Nettleton Business College in Sioux City for one year before being drafted into the United States Army. He served 18 months, including 15 months in

Vietnam. Upon returning home he farmed and trucked for several years before pursuing higher education, earning his bachelor's degree from Tarkio College in Missouri in 1976.

Tom taught math and social studies at St. Lawrence School in Carroll from 1976-1978, where he also coached junior high sports and became a trusted mentor for many students.

In 1979 his career path shifted when he became a business partner with his brother Bill, operating Zeke's Place in Breda for ten years. In 1990 he transitioned into catering with Lidderdale County Store and continued until he retired in 2018.

Tom met his future wife Mary Jean Lewman on a blind date, and they were married in 1980 in an outdoor ceremony at Dolliver State Park. Their daughter Rachel joined the family in 1983 and together they built a life centered on love of family, nature and community. On their acreage they created a garden sanctuary abundant with birds, trees and flowers.

Tom's life was rich with experiences and adventure. He joined MJ and Rachel in many travels, including ziplining in New Zealand - much to everyone's surprise! He loved exploring abroad and enjoyed beautiful woodland hikes near home. Tom embraced bicycling, riding RAGBRAI many times as well as trails in other states. He was often seen on the Sauk Trail quietly keeping pace with MJ's endurance training.

Tom enjoyed all sports, especially basketball. He was a loyal Cyclone, Hawkeye and Celtics fan. A particularly cherished tradition was his 'Beantown Brothers' group who trekked annually to Boston for games. He also valued time spent with his golf and bowling buddies.

Above all, Tom was a kind and steady presence. He was patient, thoughtful and generous. He consistently put others first, often noticing a need and quietly stepping in to help without seeking recognition.

Tom is survived by his wife Mary Jean Lewman-Stork of Carroll and daughter Rachel of Chicago, Illinois. His sisters: Phyllis Davis (Larry), Susan Benedict (Robert), Margaret Gross (Patrick), Mary Eickman (Lynn), Michele Stork, Sandra Hackerson (Ron); his brothers: Alan Stork (LuJean), Robert Stork (MaryLou), Donald Stork (Marsha), Bill Stork (Pat), Gordon Stork (Carol), Matt Stork Jr. (Teri), Henry Stork (Amy); sister-in-law: Michelle Stork; Brother-in-law Norman Lewman (Susan); as well as many nieces, nephews, and other extended relatives.

He is preceded in death by his parents; Mathias and Mary Ann Stork, his brother Kenneth Stork and his sisters Ruth Lappe and Patricia Stork.

Tom will be deeply missed, and we will hold him in our hearts forever. He leaves behind a legacy of warmth, strength and enduring care for those around him.

Thirty-seven forever. Save us a seat at the table, Tom Cat.

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ *RIP Tom! 🙏🙏 Many prayers to Mary and their daughter Rachel and families!* ”



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**Linda Bluml** - Yesterday at 11:10 AM

DC

“ *RIP Tom* ”

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**Donna Neppi Cooper** - May 15 at 09:34 PM

BB

“ *Bob And Vickie Boes lit a candle in memory of Thomas Stork* ”



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**Bob and Vickie Boes** - May 09 at 08:03 PM

BB

“ *Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers !* ”

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**Bob and Vickie Boes** - May 09 at 08:02 PM

PS

“ My condolences to the Stork Family. Tom was a coach and teacher at St. Lawrence School in Carroll where he was our football and basketball coach of our 7th grade team. I will always remember his great attitude! Good coach and good person! I also remember his mother, Mary, who taught me and many others at St. Lawrence for many years. May perpetual light shine upon Tom.

Paul R Simons - May 05 at 05:44 PM

AS

“ I remember going to Zeke's after school sitting with them and his daughter Rachel he had a zest of life that was contagious

Anne Snyder - May 05 at 12:08 PM

KN

“ The smile says it all

Kris Nagl - May 04 at 06:28 PM

TI

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Stork family. We have many fond memories of Tom. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.



Tom & Joan Dunn, Sheldon. Ia - May 02 at 04:34 PM

MR

“ MJ and I (sorority sisters @ ISU) reunited after ~45 years when she and Tom flew to Panama for a visit.

*It was a delight to see her again but meeting Tom made it extra-special. Tom was such a talented convivial man.*

*After repatriating to the U.S., we had the joy of their visit to Myrtle Beach—including their biking (RAGBRAI veterans) excursions, cooking acumen, chats, etc.*

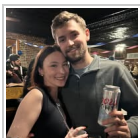
*Wrapping my arms virtually around MJ and Rachel (who made a delightful uterus necklace for our niece, an OB/GYN micro surgeon) & holding them in our hearts in this time of loss and mourning.*

*We only wish we'd enjoyed a banquet catered by talented Tom. Perhaps some day we will all gather together @ a friends'.banquet table in heaven.*

*Tom will be catering (using many fresh veggies from the garden) & minions will toast Tom, a fine, decent, talented man who made a mark in our world. He will be missed—tho fondly remembered—by friends and family.*

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**Mary Roush** - May 01 at 05:15 PM



“ My thoughts & prayers are with MJ and Rachel during this difficult time. Growing up with Tom as a great uncle was truly a gift—his presence, kindness, and the memories he helped create will forever be held close to our hearts. He touched so many lives in quiet but meaningful ways, and he will be deeply and lovingly missed.



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**Vanessa Bauer** - May 01 at 05:05 PM

AJ

“ Arnold J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Stork.

Arnold J. - May 01 at 03:49 PM

SR

“ My sympathies to Mary, Rachel and the entire family,  
Great memories from you guys living next door to grandma and grandpa when I was a kid and working with Tom Cat at Zeke's when I was in college.  
Shannon (Nees) Reising

Shannon Reising - May 01 at 01:58 PM

JR

“ Sorry for your loss. He was a great guy. Would bring my mom some breaded cauliflower or something from Zeke's if he stopped in Maple River on his way home from work.

jackie rahe - May 01 at 08:18 AM

JF

“ I am going to miss him always joking around and making work at Zekes and Catering so much fun! A lot of great times!" Forever 28" right Tom, lol!! Blessed to be family!❤️

Julie Wessling and family - May 01 at 06:15 AM

MP

“ Thoughts & prayers are with the family. Rest in peace cat. 🙏🙏🙏



Marv & Kristi Pudenz - May 01 at 03:16 AM

KB

“ *Kim Boeckman lit a candle in memory of Thomas Stork*



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**Kim Boeckman** - April 30 at 06:59 PM

KB

“ *I remember Tom from Zeke's in Breda. My sympathy to his family.*

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**Kim Boeckman** - April 30 at 06:59 PM

BI

“ *Tom best at Mikan drill in Bobcat BB -Good player-Bill Pick*

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**bill** - April 30 at 05:31 PM

MM

“ *Condolences on Tom's passing. Prayers for all the family. I have fond memories of Tom and his family. He will be missed. Marilyn Millhollin*

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**Marilyn Millhollin** - April 30 at 05:09 PM