



Captain Thomas Willard Steves

June 16, 1949 - August 26, 2017

Captain Thomas Willard Steves, 68, of Bunnlevel, NC died August 26, 2017, while on a motorcycle trip in Colorado with his brother Jeff. It was a beautiful day and he was doing what he loved to do, with his favorite motorcycle companion.

He was born to the late John W. and Virginia D. (Hope) Steves, June 16, 1949, in Old Town, Maine. Tom graduated from Harborfields High School in Greenlawn, NY in 1967, received a BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1973, and an AAS in Forest Management Technology from Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, NC in 1996.

Tom entered the Air Force and went into pilot training in Texas immediately following college graduation. He was an Air Force Captain, F-4 fighter pilot, F-4 instructor pilot, parachutist, and Forward Air Controller (FAC) and extremely proud to serve his country. He worked at many bases in North and South Carolina and Florida throughout his career. Tom was part of several combat operations including Operation Just Cause in Panama and Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. After retiring from the Air Force in 1993 he was a Forest Ranger in Harnett County for the NC Forest Service from 1996-2014. This was a perfect second career since Tom loved nature, being outdoors and working with his hands.

Tom was active in retirement with many organizations in his community. These included the Sandhills Antique Farm Equipment Club, Averagesboro Town Restoration Association, Flat Branch Volunteer Fire Department, Counselor

for the Veteran's Court and a volunteer at the "The Greatest Naval Stores Show on Earth". He was hard-working and dependable (their "go-to" guy) and will be greatly missed.

Tom had a great sense of humor, was unpredictable and a lot of fun. He was always ready for the next adventure. Tom also had a very inquisitive mind. He was engaging yet humble. You always felt when he was listening to you that he was completely interested in your point of view.

Tom's love for his family and friends was beyond measure. He is survived by his wife, Chaluy and two sons, Johnny and Vittaya of North Carolina; his brother Jeff and his family including wife Diane and nephew and niece Ryan and Nicole of California; his sister Joanne and her family including husband Greg and two nephews Kevin and Cody of Texas; as well as 4 cousins Jannifer O'Connor, Rebecca MacDonald, Melanie Thompson and Caroline Fontaine of Maine. He will also be missed every day by his dog Cooper, who was his constant companion and best friend.

A service to honor Tom will take place at the Flat Branch Presbyterian Church, 130 Darroch Road, Bunnlevel, NC 28323 on Sept. 23, 2017 at 2:00PM. Dr. Michael Armistead will be officiating.

Instead of flowers, the family asks that donations in Tom's honor be sent to the Flat Branch Volunteer Fire Department, 2098 Elliott Bridge Road, Bunnlevel, NC 28323; Sandhills Antique Farm Equipment Club, PO Box 906, Lillington, NC 27546; or Averbosoro Town Restoration Association, Inc., C/O Brian Avery, 3191 Harnett Central Road, Angier, NC 27501.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Flat Branch Presbyterian Church
130 Darroch Road
Bunnlevel, NC 28323

Tribute Wall



“ *Godspeed Tom. I'm grateful for the time I was allowed to work with you. Thank you for all you taught me.*



Derrick Turnage - September 22, 2017 at 03:10 PM

JO

“ *I will miss that smile , laugh and always a listening ear. Tom had such a love for adventure and love for family he will be missed greatly by all that knew him. My heart aches but he will always be close to my heart and not a day / hour goes by without thinking of him through tears and smiles. CSP won't be the same. Such wonderful memories to keep close . Love to all the Steve's .*



Jannifer Dolan O'Connor - September 20, 2017 at 10:26 AM

JO

“ *Tom had a smile that lit up the world around him! He was a joy to be around and we are proud to have been his friends and worked with him as volunteers at Save the Shaw Halfway House and with the "Greatest Naval Stores Show on Earth". We did our first show without him last Saturday and his presence was missed by all of us. Our love and prayers go out to all his family and friends. May God hold you and comfort you today and in the days to come. John and Linda Overby*

John and Linda Overby - September 15, 2017 at 02:05 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ray Hunting - September 14, 2017 at 12:57 PM

RH

“ 7 files added to the album Riding with Tom



Ray Hunting - September 14, 2017 at 12:03 PM

EW

“ Ed & Martha Wrench lit a candle in memory of Captain Thomas Willard Steves



Ed & Martha Wrench - September 14, 2017 at 05:38 AM