



## Thomas J. Friend

October 23, 1953 - February 16, 2023

Thomas Friend, 69, of Des Moines and formerly of Iowa Falls, passed away Thursday, February 16, 2023 at UnityPoint Health - Iowa Methodist in Des Moines. Funeral mass will be 11:00 AM Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the St. Mark Catholic Church in Iowa Falls. He will be laid to rest with military honors at the St. Mark Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:30 AM until service time on Tuesday, February 21 at the church. Counsell Woodley Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Iowa Falls is caring for Tom and his family.

Thomas Joseph Friend was born on October 23, 1953 to James Joseph and Rosemary (McCoy) Friend in Des Moines, Iowa. He attended St. Anthony's grade school and graduated from Dowling High School class of 1972. Thomas honorably served in the United States Navy from 1972-1976.

Tom worked many summers with his dad and became a Master Electrician. He owned and operated Friend Electric Inc. in Iowa Falls, Iowa for over thirty-five years.

On January 1, 2000 Thomas was united in marriage to Patricia Sullivan at St. Mark Catholic Church in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Tom and Patti adopted three children: Gina, Julianne and Thomas.

Tom's avocation was buying and selling diamonds, coins, gold and silver. He

collected tools and pocket knives and along with Patti, enjoyed auctions and collecting antiques. Tom was very caring and generous to a fault. He gave back to the community over many years with donations of time, money and use of his equipment. He mentored many young men who went on to be electricians and electrical engineers.

Tom enjoyed concerts and loved to tease and joke around. He was gruff on the outside but had the heart of a marshmallow. His children were the joy of his life. Even though Tom endured years of medical issues he always had a smile and enjoyed talking to his many friends.

Tom Friend is survived by his wife, Patti Friend; children, Gina Friend (Josh Jones) and children Ariella and Wyatt of Algona, Iowa, Julianne (Noah Olander) Friend of Mitchellville, Iowa and Thomas Friend of Rockwell, Iowa; sisters, Mary (Jerry) Spracklin, Joanne (Marty Shephed) Friend, Theresa Waters and Helen (Rodney) Curry all of Des Moines, Iowa; sister in-law, Diane Friend and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Carol Henderson and brother, Jim Friend.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mark Catholic Cemetery

Iowa Falls, IA 50126

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 21. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark Catholic Church  
415 Main St  
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

## Service

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark Catholic Church  
415 Main St  
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Tom was a very kind, generous and trusting man. He taught and helped me a lot. He taught me about diamonds and jewelry store mark-up. He gave me a jeweler's loop and he sold me a diamond for my wife's engagement ring. It was out of a Mason's ring and he wanted the setting back- haha, he had a keen business sense. I bought it for 600 dollars and it appraised for 3800. That was the spring of 1995. We were married in 1996. Then for our 10 year anniversary, he sold me another very nice diamond. I bought it for 3200 and it appraised for 11500. He would often let me have a diamond or two for a couple weeks to see if I wanted them. He was always kind and trusting and very professional to deal with. He never talked down to people even though, he was often the smartest guy in the room. He really had a way of speaking with people that made you feel like you were long-time friends. I live in Peoria, IL and just heard about his passing. I am very saddened to learn of his passing. I didn't know that he was Catholic, or that he was from Des Moines. I am Catholic also and went to Spalding High School in Peoria. I also know about Dowling High School as I went to Drake University.

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**Bill Stickelmaier** - December 27, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ Very sorry to find this.. Blessings to Tom's family. Jean and Jerry of Belmond

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**Jean Alspach** - April 07, 2023 at 10:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Friend.*



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February 20, 2023 at 04:13 PM



“ *Marti Anderson purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Thomas J. Friend.*



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**Marti Anderson** - February 20, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Friend.*



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February 20, 2023 at 10:20 AM



“ *Tom was a good friend to me and the Dowling High School Softball team. I remember the huge help he was when we needed help putting lights on our field. That field no longer exists today but I remember him. God Bless Tom.*

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**Dr. Joe Cordaro, former softball coach** - February 20, 2023 at 08:30 AM

NK

“ My deepest sympathies to all of Tom's family. You are all in my prayers.

Nancy Kuenen - February 20, 2023 at 12:38 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Friend.



February 19, 2023 at 07:53 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Friend.



February 19, 2023 at 07:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Friend.



February 19, 2023 at 05:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Friend.*



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February 19, 2023 at 04:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Friend.*



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February 19, 2023 at 04:43 PM

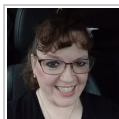


“ *I always enjoyed talking with Tom at family get-togethers. When we both had a business that gave us shared conversation. As we were both Vets we had that Sacred Brotherhood that civilians do not understand.*

*Sorry I can't be there to pay honors.*

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**Chris Bechtel** - February 17, 2023 at 07:06 PM



*Patti always spoke highly of him & their visits. Our prayers and deepest condolences go out to Patti and the rest of the family.*

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**Nancy Ault** - February 19, 2023 at 05:32 PM

MA

*What a hard blow for the the Friend family to lose Tom just three weeks after his brother Jim died. My thoughts are with family. Rest in Peace, cousin Tommy. 💜*

**Marti Anderson** - February 19, 2023 at 10:16 PM

KB

*I'm sorry for your loss. I pray Tom rests in peace, and I pray comfort and solace for the family.*

**Kathy Bernal** - February 20, 2023 at 06:46 AM

LC

*Rest in peace. Jimmy too. Years have passed quickly since we were young. Sympathy to all the family, I was notified by SJA/Dowling*

**Linda Beltrame Chivers** - February 25, 2023 at 06:35 AM