



Thomas Lloyd Burton

June 24, 1941 - August 6, 2021

Thomas L. Burton, 80, of Rockford, IL passed away on August 6, 2021 surrounded by his family. Born June 24, 1941 in Port Huron, MI. He wanted to write a portion of his obituary to his family prior to his passing.

Obituary is a "noun". Sometimes a sad noun, sometimes a happy noun. I always read the obits every day and hopefully thought I would never see my name. But I did. So it's with great remorse that I leave my many, many, many friends and family I've loved forever. We had fun, we did a lot. I don't think there are many other men that have met and had as many friends as I've had in my short, stubborn, 80 years. But now it's over, so I say goodbye. Below will be listed a bunch of BS about my career. I think I might fabricate a lot so I sound like a real dude, but I just can't believe how much I miss you all. I now begin my bullshit story about what I've done and where I've worked. If you got the time, keep reading and I love you all. Burt (Written by Thomas Burton July 31, 2021)

Tom started with Leath Furniture in 1963 as a management trainee and worked his way up through the company, managing many stores across the Midwest until his departure from Leath in 1983. He worked a few years with Pontiac Chair Company then took a job with Mersman Furniture where he worked for over a decade. He then formed Burton & Associates in 1994, retiring from the industry in 2020. He was most active in the Beloit community over the years and was a member of several boards in the furniture industry. He was an avid golfer, playing both locally and internationally.

Survived by children; Michelle (Christopher) Guss, and Tara (Craig Pfaff) Burton; grandchildren, Dylan and Ashley Guss; brother, Donny (Gail) Burton. The second of five children, he was preceded in death by his parents; Leatha and Forrest Burton; brother, Forrest Burton; sisters; Beverly (Larry) Heimbach, and Patsy (Sonny) Gorospe.

Memorial visitation Monday, August 16, 2021 from 11 am to 1 pm at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St. Rockford; followed by a Celebration of Life at 1 pm. Chaplain Darren Loeppky of OSF Hospice will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorials may

be made to OSF Hospice, <https://www.osfhealthcarefoundation.org/samc-rockford-donation-form/>

Share a memory or condolence at www.graceFH.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG **16.** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Memorial Service

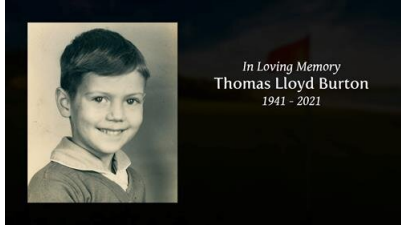
AUG **16.** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Lloyd Burton



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - August 17, 2021 at 09:02 PM



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Thomas Lloyd Burton



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - August 15, 2021 at 10:34 PM

PG

“ I met Tom many years ago when I became a rep with Mersman. Tom was always a fun loving guy and always a hoot.

Here is my favorite memory of Tom:

After working alongside Tom as a rep we became good friends. Another great guy and close friend of Tom's, Bob Hedges, invited me, Tom and another friend and colleague, Glenn Sanders to his lake house to spend the weekend.

It was getting quite late on that Friday night and "Burt" was still not there. We began to wonder if he'd make it. Then around midnight or so, we heard a car coming toward the house, brakes squealing and all of a sudden the headlights were glaring through the picture window. We all went out to find Burt had pulled up in the front yard right to the front door! Classic entrance.

The next day we went fishing and I loaned Tom one of my favorite fishing rods. We were having a great day and then Tom said, "watch this cast", and he proceeded to cast and threw my rod into the lake! I was bummed and thought we should try to get some heavy lures and cast and drag the bottom. This was an extreme long shot considering we were in a pontoon boat that was anchored in the lake with the breeze blowing us around. We tried for about 5-10 minutes and then I said OK, one more cast. Low and behold, I actually snagged the rod from the bottom of the lake.

Tom always talked about that day every time I saw him.

Burt was a great guy and funny as hell. I'll miss him dearly.

My sincere condolences to the family.

Parker Goss

Parker Goss - September 15, 2021 at 03:37 PM

KA

“ Many years ago, Tom and I played in a golf tournament at Sinnissippi Golf Course and we won first place. We used to eat lunch with him periodically at the Auto Inn.

Tom was lots of fun and he will be missed.

Kathy Lonergan

Kathy - August 12, 2021 at 11:23 AM

SH

“ So sad to read this.. Tom always and I mean always stopped to say hello to me anytime I was at the Lombardi club in Rockford... even if it was years in-between he always said hello... what a funny and gentle man he was... that special smile and hello will always be remembered by me .From the , to the as he would say " the best looking Merlo here" RIP My friend.. Shirley Merlo-Bennett

Shirley - August 12, 2021 at 07:04 AM

TB

“ Do not worry Tom, I will watch over Billy... RIP always and we will meet again...

Timm Burgess - August 11, 2021 at 05:51 PM

JL

“ Rest in Peace Tom

*John Leggero
Venice Fl.*

John Leggero - August 11, 2021 at 01:47 PM

BF

“ Rip my friend till we meet again on the 1rst tee!!!
Luv ya!!!

Bill Fox

Bill Fox - August 10, 2021 at 01:58 PM