



Thomas Michael Haller

January 10, 1954 - December 15, 2025

Thomas Haller - Obituary

Thomas "Tom" M. Haller, 71, of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, passed away peacefully at home on December 15, 2025, surrounded by family - and likely already planning his next fishing trip.

Tom was preceded in death by his daughter, Julie Christine Haller, and his parents, Richard and Lorraine Haller of Minneapolis.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Cheryl Haller (Harrer); his daughters, Cari Haller, Jennifer Illg (Jason), and Kelly Paulson; and his grandsons, Jacob Paulson, Wyatt Illg (Kaylee), Travis Illg, Cade Illg, Justin Illg, Ethan Haller, and honorary grandson, Tim Petroschus - all of whom knew exactly who to call when something needed fixing (or tinkering).

Tom is also survived by his brother, Richard Haller; his sisters Kathy Theil (Jeff) and Wendy Rudek (Jeff); brothers - and sisters - in - law; many nieces, nephews and friends who appreciated his dry humor and straightforward advice.

A true outdoorsman, Tom loved fishing, hunting and being outside. He was a MOPAR guy through and through - loyal to his cars and not shy about telling

you why yours didn't measure up. He loved animals, and while he didn't always say much, his actions spoke louder than words. Above all, his favorite title was "Grandpa", and his greatest joy was spending time with his grandsons.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held on December 21, 2025, at Glen Haven Chapel - 5125 W Broadway, Crystal, MN 55429. The visitation will begin at 12:00 PM, service at 1:00 PM; luncheon will follow the service. In true Tom fashion, casual attire is welcome. Stories, laughter and memories are encouraged.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Memorial Service

DEC **21**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Reception

DEC **21**. 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Tribute Wall



“ *My Speech to my Beloved Uncle Tom I Read.
Jeffrey Thiel Jr. Nephew. Son of Kathy Thiel
(Tom's Sister)*



In Remembrance of Tom-

On Monday afternoon, the world became a little quieter, and a little less mischievous, with the passing of Tom. He was the kind of person who didn't just enter a room—he changed it. Conversations grew warmer, laughter came easier, and somehow, even ordinary moments felt like they mattered more simply because he was there.

Tom had a gift that can't be taught: the ability to connect. He could make a joke that caught you off guard, the kind that made you laugh first and think later. His humor wasn't loud for the sake of being loud—it was clever, well-timed, and usually delivered with that unmistakable look that said he knew exactly what he was doing. He understood that laughter wasn't just entertainment; it was medicine, a bridge, and sometimes a gentle way of telling the truth.

But behind the humor was a strength that ran deep. Tom showed up. He showed up when it mattered, and often when it didn't seem convenient. He believed in doing right by people, even when no one was watching, and he carried himself with a quiet confidence that never needed applause. If you needed advice, he gave it honestly. If you needed support, he gave it fully. And if you needed a reality check, he gave that too—usually softened by a grin so you knew it came from love.

What made Tom truly special was his charisma—the kind that didn't demand attention but earned it.

There has been a long-running joke in my family that I was born into the wrong branch of the tree. My mom and dad would laugh and say I should have been Uncle Tom's—or Uncle Rich's son—because somehow I inherited the passions they carried so naturally. Cars were a perfect example. My parents never really loved them the way I did, but Tom and Rich did. They understood engines, admired craftsmanship, and could appreciate the soul behind a machine. When I talked about cars, Tom listened in a way that made me feel seen, like we were speaking the same language.

Fishing was another bond, and one that tied our whole family together. Tom loved fishing, Rich loved fishing, and I absolutely loved fishing. It was one of those rare things that crossed generations and personalities, something we could all agree on. I think that love began with our grandfather—Tom's dad—Mr. Richard Haller. He made sure each of us had a turn, at least once in our lives, to sit beside him with a rod in hand, learning patience, respect for nature, and the quiet joy of simply being present. That legacy lived on through Tom, and through all of us who still find peace near the water. People listened when he spoke, not because he talked the most, but because what he said mattered. He had stories, and each one carried a lesson, a laugh, or a reminder not to take life too seriously. He understood that life is short, fragile, and precious, and he lived in a way that reflected that understanding.

Tom leaves behind more than memories; he leaves behind a standard. A standard for kindness. For resilience. For humor in the face of hardship. His influence lives on in the stories we'll keep telling, the jokes we'll repeat, and the moments when we catch ourselves reacting the way he would have—with patience, courage, and just enough sarcasm to keep things interesting.

Though his absence is deeply felt, his presence hasn't truly left us. It echoes in laughter, in strength, and in the quiet moments when we

remember who he was and what he stood for. Tom taught us how to live a little better, love a little stronger, and laugh a little louder. And for that, he will always be remembered—not just for how he left this world, but for how powerfully he lived in it.

Tom, from me to you—thank you. Thank you for making me feel understood, for sharing passions that made me feel like I belonged, and for showing me what it looks like to truly live. Thank you for the laughs, the lessons, and the quiet moments that mattered more than words. Your strength for life showed through your four daughters and your six grandsons, and through every person who was lucky enough to know you. I'll carry you with me—in every cast of a fishing line, in every engine that roars to life, and in every moment I choose to live boldly and fully, the way you did. Rest easy, Tom. You are deeply loved, and you will never be forgotten.

Jeff Thiel - December 21, 2025 at 11:38 PM

JT

“ I knew Tom for 35 years and his CALM DEMEANER AND KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY was his MEMMORABLE TRAITS that he shared with everyone. HIS LOVE FOR HIS DAUGHTERS, GRANDCHILDREN, AND HIS MOM AND DAD, AND HIS WIFE CHERYL OF 50 YEARS will always be remembered by all of us. I never knew him when he was living at the (NORTH STAR SPEEDWAY TRACK IN BLAINE / LINO LAKES AREA) but he liked his " MOPARS" AND HIS CAR RACING AND BEING WITH HIS CAR CLUB FRIENDS AT THE TRACK. MY FAVORITE MEMORIES INCLUDE: RED DOOR RESORT WINTER ICE FISHING ON LAKE MILLE LACS, DEER HUNTING AT LAC QUI PARKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA IN APPLETON, MN.(APPLETON MOTEL, SNOW CAME INSIDE THE DOOR DURING THE NIGHT AND WE COULD BARELY GET THE DOOR OPEN) WE GOT A GOOD LAUGH OUT OF THAT!!! HE always would help me out on cars and would tell you if he could or knew how to do it before we started, between the two of us we would figure it out. We went to some CAR SHOWS, BOAT Shows, SPORTSMAN SHOWS AT THE MPLS CONVENTION CENTER TOGETHER. TOM IS IN HEAVEN NOW WITH HIS DAUGHTER (JULIE) , MOM (LORRAINE) , DAD(RICHARD) and is looking down from above telling all of us to continue enjoying life and he will see us again someday. He wants all of us to (HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR) HE WOULD HAVE WANTED US TO HONOR HIS LIFE, BUT TO CONTINUE OUR LIFE ON EARTH AND ENJOY IT AND REMEMBER HIM FOR ALL OF HIS KIND THOUGHTS AND HIS GENTLENESS TO SHARE WITH OTHERS!!! TOM, I KNOW YOU ARE AT PEACE NOW WITH NO MORE SUFFERING AND YOU ARE IN GOOD HANDS NOW WITH GOD TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOU!!! REST IN PEACE NOW, SEE YOU SOMEDAY AGAIN. GOD BLESS YOUR SOUL AND SAY HI TO YOUR MOM AND DAD AND DAUGHTER FROM ALL OF US!!! TAKE CARE AND GOD BLESS YOU, YOU WILL BE MISSED GREATLY, AND I KNOW YOU ARE IN A BETTER PLACE NOW , IN GOOD HANDS NOW, GOD ALWAYS TAKES CARE OF HIS CHILDREN!!! I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE GOOD THINGS YOU SHOWED ME

AND YOU ARE A GREAT FRIEND TO EVERYONE AND ALL OF US HAVE A GREAT MEMORY TO CHERISH FOREVER!! REST IN PEACE (BROTHER-IN -LAW) JEFF THIEL

Jeffrey Thiel - December 19, 2025 at 08:21 PM

MF

“ I didn't know Tom very well over the last 25 years or so. When I did see him I always made a point to talk with him and catch up. It wasn't until recent months when the inevitable became apparent that I allowed myself to reflect on the past, and only then realized what an enormous influence he was on the trajectory of my life. Tom and Cheryl took me in as a young child - no easy task for them I'm sure. I believe I became interested in Eric Clapton and guitars largely due to Tom Haller, as well as Tommy Harrer. I bought Tom's Gibson Sonex and Peavey amp, that he got from Tommy, and I still have and use them. Tom took me fishing and started me on hunting, which I love to this day. He also taught me how to drive a stickshift before I had a license, or even a permit. And of course, taught me how to give everyone the middle finger. I'm certain there are other things I'm not thinking of. I just wanted to thank him now, albeit too late, and acknowledge that in so many ways, he was like a father to me in the absence of my own.

Rest in peace

Michael Foster

MICHAEL FOSTER - December 19, 2025 at 05:45 PM

CH

You were always a pleasure to be with and we loved sure loved you and you were so easy to love and we Still do and Tom especially so enjoyed having you with us whenever possible especially surrounded by all his girls. He did know you came to see him before he passed even though he called you Sibyl he said he knew you. He was also so proud that you kept up with the guitar and played and sang so great. You take care of Mike now. Loved you then and now.
Love your loving aunty 🍷🐶

Cheryl Haller - December 19, 2025 at 06:35 PM

MF

“ *Michele, Colleen, Danny, and families purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Thomas Michael Haller.*



Michele, Colleen, Danny, and families - December 18, 2025 at 02:09 PM