



## Thomas Dryden Holt

July 5, 1959 - February 28, 2026

Thomas Dryden Holt, 66, died on February 28, 2026, due to a Glioblastoma brain tumor. Tom is survived by his wife, Anita, canine companion, Ziva, Aunt Nan, Uncles Dieter and Peter-Paul, multiple sisters, brothers, in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins throughout the USA and Europe.

Tom courageously battled this uninvited invader (aka Glioblastoma) with ALL of his resolve. Despite adding unnecessary personal discomfort and additional time to every cancer treatment, Tom selflessly participated in multiple Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins brain tumor research projects to help search for a cure for this dreadful disease. As we navigated his fight against this uninvited invader, we quickly learned that family and friends who helped us when we were at our worst are the most special people in the world! We are forever grateful!

Tom was born to Mary and Herbert Holt Jr. in Illinois. When he was 2 years old, his family moved to Deephaven, MN where Tom spent his childhood until he graduated from Minnetonka High School. His days were filled with lake Minnetonka swimming, hockey and goalie, golf, lettered in soccer, baseball and traveling summer baseball team, ice skating, and bike riding. Although humble about his skills, Tom was always really good in sports.

Tom graduated from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse (also known as

Harvard on the Mississippi) with a BA degree in English and Pre-Law. His grandmother, Agnes, offered to pay for Tom's law degree; however, Tom graciously turned down her offer and spent his work career in multiple roles. From Sales, Real Estate, Commercial Driving, Logistics Planning, Warehouse Management, Business Ventures Development, and Team Member Management and Leadership roles, Tom's favorite job since he was a child was driving trucks. Tom drove for United Van Lines, and most recently as a proud Union member and a hazmat endorsed commercial driver of international freight for UPS.

Tom loved spending his life with, Anita, and his adored Maltese canine companions. Tom and Anita were together for 41 years, married 39 years, and one of his final wishes was to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. Tom and Anita shared travel adventures, mostly in the USA and a few in Europe; and lived in multiple east coast states, as they navigated career opportunities. Tom also enjoyed cooking for family and decorating each of their homes, as they moved to different locations.

Tom made many good friends, near and far. Some of his most hilarious and/or shocking moments were made with his dear college friends. Tom loved his Saturday coffee with the boys and a round of golf on Sunday mornings. Even as Tom was journeying through his death process at N.C. Little Memorial Hospice in Edina, Tom's playful personality shined through. EVERYONE at Little Hospice was incredibly compassionate, and they provided Tom with the absolute best personal care, for which he consistently rated them with perfect YELP scores! Tom and Anita are also beyond thankful for the most excellent care provided by hospice RN Kate and hospice RN Gretchen from AccentCare Hospice.

There is absolutely no doubt that Tom is in heaven, where he will be reunited with Anita someday in the future. Through this journey we have learned that

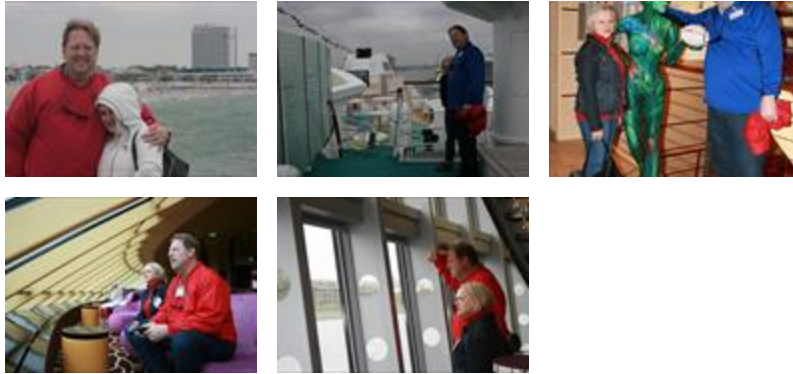
the only thing eternal in this life is love! As Tom would say, "You've got this; you know what you are doing." And most importantly, "Turn Wide and Don't Back Up!"

A private family celebration of Tom's life will be held in May. Memorial donations can be sent to American Maltese Association Rescue (AMAR) or N.C. Little Memorial Hospice of Edina, MN or donor's favorite charity.

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ 34 files added to the album Tom in Berlin, May 2015



Jochen Larisch - March 16 at 12:04 PM

AH

*Thank you for adding these photos, dear cousin! We had a great time visiting you and your family!*

Anita Holt - March 21 at 11:50 AM

TF

“ Tom dispatched Todd and me, doing household. He never let us come home, telling Todd "Ruth's with you, you don't need to come home". He looked after us well, made us laugh, and we always were excited to see him back at Barrett. So sorry to hear of this.  
Todd and Ruth Flanders

Todd Flanders - March 12 at 11:25 AM

NH

“ Dear Family and Friends,  
It was our pleasure to care for Thomas at this important time.  
With Sympathies,  
Nurses and Staff at NC Little Hospice

NC Little Hospice - March 11 at 11:45 AM

MM

“ I worked with Tom for 20 years at Barrett. He would always give me a hard time when I would book orders. He would tell me we're maxed out and cannot accept anymore orders. By the time I walked to the front of the building, he would call me and say, "where's the order"???? What a guy! :)

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**MaryAnn Murphy** - March 11 at 09:49 AM

JO

“ Tom and Anita visited us in Germany in 2015. We spent several days in Berlin and then drove to my place in Rostock. We had a lot of fun and laughed a lot, sharing memories and stories from our lives. It was great to see how well Tom got along with my daughters, who were 4 and 8 at the time. Both daughters had a lot of fun with Tom and were thrilled by his friendliness and his ability to constantly joke with them. Tom was always patient and a great cousin. We spent wonderful days in Berlin, in Rostock, on a cruise ship for a day trip along the Baltic Sea coast, barbecuing with friends, and trying different types of German beer.

Tom was a wonderful person with a very good heart. We never argued; we always had good conversations. Tom, we love you and miss you. Thank you for all the positive vibes you brought into our lives.

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**Jochen** - March 10 at 09:46 AM

RM

“ Tom was a fantastic person to work with during my 20 years at the moving company. In fact, Tom taught me how to drive a semi. We were on a road trip to various towns in Minnesota driving an '81 Kenworth single axle cabover 10 spd with Armstrong steering and pulling a 45' trailer. Halfway to Fargo, Tom says, “You drive.” And he climbs out of the driver's seat.  
Well, okay, then. I better drive this truck or we're going to crash. I did and we didn't.  
Always had fun and I learned many things from Tom. He was very good with people and I had tremendous respect for him.  
Absolutely devastated to hear of his passing and my heartfelt condolences go out to Anita and their family.  
Rich & Mary Jo Meyer

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**Rich & Mary Jo Meyer** - March 06 at 09:03 PM

AH

*Thank you for sharing the fun story about driving the truck!*

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**Anita Holt** - March 06 at 11:56 PM

JO

“ Jochen lit a candle in memory of Thomas Dryden Holt



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**Jochen** - March 06 at 07:09 AM

AH

*Thank you dear cousin!*

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**Anita Holt** - March 06 at 11:53 PM

KJ

*Tom and Anita were incredibly nice neighbors to us for over 10 years, they welcomed us to the neighborhood with open arms every time we saw them out walking the adorable dogs they were always smiling. We appreciated the kindness of Tom ( and Anita ) and the help with so many little things, like packages, keeping our neighborhood safe and sharing wonderful service providers and contacts.  
Thank you Tom ( and Anita ) we know you're in a good place!  
Karen & Lance*

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**karen johnston** - March 15 at 10:52 AM