



## Thomas Michael Thornton

August 27, 1960 - July 14, 2019

Thomas Michael Thornton, age 58, died on Sunday, July 14, 2019. Tom and his wife, Debbie, reside in Biggs, CA. Tom was the son of Joe and Barbara Thornton. He was born in Alturas, California on August 27, 1960, and spent the majority of his life in Northern California.

Tom loved woodworking and gardening. He was a voracious reader of biographies and history. Tom was a member of the Knights of Columbus, and was a dedicated family man who took pride in his children and grandchildren.

Tom is survived by his wife, Debbie, 5 children, and 2 step-children: John Paul (Deidre) Thornton of Yreka, Beverly (Jonathan) Thornton of San Francisco, Kate (Aaron) Keel of Seattle, Luke (Randi) Thornton of Oroville, Mary Rose (Mitch) Thornton of Point Cook, Australia, Dillon Rosencrance of Chico, and Jacob Rosencrance of Biggs. Tom had 5 grandchildren, and is also survived by two brothers and four sisters: Joe (Sydney) Thornton of Walton, CA, John (Deb) Thornton of Louisville, Kentucky, Jeanie (Dave) McHardy of Murphys, CA, Mary (Lansing) of Redding, Margaret (Andreas) Sommer of Carlsbad, and Ruthie (Joe) Lawrence of Mountain View. Tom is also survived by 17 nieces and nephews.

Recitation of the Rosary will be held for Tom on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m., with a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 11:00 a.m. at

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Yreka. Interment of Tom's urn will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Yreka.

# Cemetery Details

## Saint Joseph's Catholic Cemetery

Yreka, CA 96097

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JUL 18. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
314 Fourth Street  
Yreka, CA 96097

## Memorial Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 18. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
314 Fourth Street  
Yreka, CA 96097

# Tribute Wall

MT

“ My husband, Marciano Topete, and I met Tom 20 years ago when he hired Marciano to work with him at Wilbur Packing. Initially Tom and Marciano were co-workers, and then became friends. Over the years they lost touch with one another but approximately 3 weeks before Tom's death, Marciano and Tom's paths crossed again when Tom once again assisted Marciano in finding employment at Mooney Farms. Tom had not changed over the years, his love for others was evident by his willingness to help them, and the care and concern he showed them. Tom was many things to many people - a husband, a father, a friend, a co-worker and his greatest quality was love. Love for others. My and Marciano's life were enriched by Tom, and we were blessed to have met him. Our hope is that everyone has a person like Tom in their life because they will forever be better people because of it.

*Mil gracias querido amigo (1,000 thank you's dear friend). Sincerely,  
Marciano and Leticia Topete, Live Oak, CA*

---

**Marciano Topete** - July 21, 2019 at 12:34 AM

NT

“ We first met Tom in the spring of 2018. We could tell immediately that his advice was built on experience and that he truly enjoyed helping entrepreneurs. Every time I spoke to him over the phone, I learned something new, and it became clear that he was someone I wanted to work with. Tom was the primary reason we pursued Stapleton-Spence. We spent 6 months preparing for our first run; and through the whole process he accurately managed our expectations, never over-promised, made solution-driven recommendations and always treated us as a partner rather than a customer. His knowledge and personability were unmatched, and my whole team is thankful to have known him.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with his family,  
- Nick, Esther, Larkin  
ESLENA Infused Still Water*

---

**Nick Turner** - July 18, 2019 at 11:51 AM

MM

“ Our family at Mooney Farms would like to send Tom's family our condolences; we are so very saddened and sorry for your loss. Tom worked at Mooney Farms for many years, and became a treasured member of our team and family. He was always so generous with his time and knowledge of this industry, and we came to greatly rely on that, especially this year with the loss of our brother Steve. All it took was one phone call to ask for help, and he immediately came right over, because that's just the kind of person he was. It was with his help and collaboration with Brad Meinen, which helped to fill the very big shoes left by Steve Mooney. We can't thank him enough for his help these past weeks, we so enjoyed his humor and down to earth way of approaching our day-to-day operations. There were many days that we would talk things though over lunch in our kitchen, which included sharing stories of the years gone by when he worked with us before. Please know that Tom will be missed by all of us here at Mooney Farms. God speed my friend, God speed.

---

**Mary Mooney** - July 17, 2019 at 07:50 PM

JC

“ Tom Thornton.....A BIG MAN ....in so many ways. Tom was big on gratitude and appreciation of others. He always talked about his children in a positive , loving , and proud manner. He spoke the same about his lovely wife.

*I always thought it would be great if we had more Tom Thornton's in this world.*

*Tom was a professional business person that was appreciated by all with whom he associated. He knew his trade....but always listen to others in order to compound his learning experience on a daily basis. As a result, his knowledge of his business endeavors grew to vast proportions. Tom always knew what he was talking about.*

*Tom had that gentle side to him. However, he would stand up for his convictions and everyone knew where he stood.....an excellent trait that contributed to the success of all who worked with him.*

*My association with Stapleton-Spence Packing Co. begin in 1964. I have had the pleasure of knowing all the family members and many who were employed by the company. Many of those friends and business associates have gone before us.*

*Without fail, we mourn their loss...the rest our our life. But we are blessed with the ability to recall memories and we can visit our memories any time we want. So now, we can relish the good memories of the BIG MAN, TOM THORNTON.*

*Thanks for the memories TOM. You will be missed by all who have known you.*

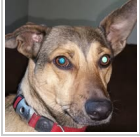
*Your Friend*

*John Chaffin*

Carmel, California

---

**John Chaffin** - July 17, 2019 at 07:29 PM



“ Tom, and I shared many things in the short time we shared each others friendship. He always brought to me humor and his down to earth approach to any problem. I trusted him I knew he always had my best interest in his advise even when I didn't want to hear it. If I could express how he wanted to live I would say the following: “Life is a song – sing it. Life is a game – play it. Life is a challenge – meet it. Life is a dream – realise it. Life is a sacrifice – offer it. Life is love – enjoy it.” We will see each other again.

Your Friend always;

Roy Johnson

---

**Roy Johnson** - July 17, 2019 at 11:26 AM

RK

“ When I moved into co-packing sales, Tom took me under his wing and taught me almost all the technical aspects of that side of our business. I don't know where I'd be without his knowledge and guidance. But more importantly, he was the most positive and wonderful person I've met in a long time. It didn't hurt that we both had the same taste in music! I'm so saddened by his sudden passing. R.I.P. my friend. Rich Kenny

**Rich Kenny** - July 16, 2019 at 09:31 PM



“ *I've worked with Tom for about 15 years. He's been our General Manager and has led us into a diversification that is vital to our business. Very bright, very articulate and he has a people skill that is unusual. I have never heard him speak up to or down to anybody. He treats everybody with respect. I am one of 70 colleagues who will miss him dearly. - Brad Stapleton*

---

**Brad Stapleton** - July 16, 2019 at 06:23 PM