



Thomas Bullington

September 2, 2025

Thomas Bullington, 79, of Pharr, TX, passed away on September 2, 2025, at McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, TX.

He was born on October 14, 1945, in Newton, IA, to Jennie Lenora and Charles Bullington. Tom grew up in Des Moines and graduated in 1963 from East High. Besides the Des Moines area, he later made homes in Marshalltown, IA, and Pharr, TX.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Marilyn Bullington; children Thomas Bullington, Charlie Bullington, and Deborah Garneau, all of Des Moines, IA; Frank Raymond (Jackie) of Urbandale, IA; Michelle Uthe (Brad) of Aurora, SD; Joseph Hoke (Jessica) of Geneseo, IL; Kristine Castel (Jay) of Davenport, IA; and Jonnie Hoke (Stacey) of East Moline, IL.

Grandchildren include Samantha, Josh, Savanna, Alissa, Elizabeth, Isabella, Nate, Sarah, Tyler, Zak, Piper, John, Cararose, Paige, McKay, Mat, Gwen, Doug, Jessica, Kennedy, Jordan, and Tyler. He is also survived by 17 great-grandchildren; his sister, Nancy Minner of Grinnell, IA; several nieces and nephews; and many close friends from Iowa and Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son, Michael; brother, Raymond "Bill" Bullington; sister, Carol Drake; and brother-in-law, Larry Minner.

Anyone who knew Tom knew that he never saw a difference between children by blood or by marriage. To him, they were all simply his kids.

Tom will be remembered for his love of the Iowa Hawkeyes, Chicago Bears,

and Chicago Cubs; his kindness, humor, dedication, and love for family. He had a passion for sports—especially when his grandchildren played—and was particularly proud of being a Vietnam veteran while serving in the U.S. Air Force, where he was awarded several medals and honors.

Upon Tom's request, cremation rites have been accorded. Burial services with full military honors will be held at Iowa National Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter, IA, on Tuesday, October 14, at 12:30 p.m. A memorial luncheon will follow at the Van Meter VFW. All friends and family are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family for a charity to be named at a later date. The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at McAllen Medical Center for their loving care.

Cemetery Details

Iowa National Veterans Cemetery

Previous Events

Burial

OCT 14. 12:30 PM.

Iowa National Veterans Cemetery

Tribute Wall

JR

“ Tom and I drove busses for PeopleRides in Marshalltown Iowa for several years together. Even tho our paths only passed in-between routes he was a great help to me who at the time was pretty much the greenhorn. I loved how he treated me with great respect and dignity being female and the new kid on the block. Tom, my dear friend you will be missed. Thank you for all your help and talks. Thank you for inviting me into your home. Love your wise and sometimes funny advise. May you live on in everyone's memories for ever. JoEllyn Reinertson

JoEllyn Reinertson - October 14, 2025 at 10:55 AM

LL

“ Marilyn and family. I'm so sorry for your loss. Tom was a great guy and such a great mentor to me when I started working for Peoplerides. I just told the story last week, about how Tom trained me to load a wheelchair on our vehicles. The first "trial" I had was a very large man, in a very big wheelchair. The chair was even more unsteady as the passenger was a double amputee. I was trying my hardest to maneuver this passenger down an incline and through a door without losing control. In typical "Tom fashion" he stood and watched, while trying not to laugh! What a great guy and I'm fortunate to have known him. -LeAnn

LeAnn Lynch - October 14, 2025 at 10:31 AM

SB

“ I didn't personally know of Thomas but if he is good as junior im sure he too was a one of a kind kindness of a person. Prayers to the family

Steve Barnes - October 08, 2025 at 02:48 PM

CC

“ *Cindy K Claussen sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Bullington*



Cindy K Claussen - September 16, 2025 at 12:15 PM

SD

“ *Shirley Dutra lit a candle in memory of Thomas Bullington*



Shirley Dutra - September 09, 2025 at 06:32 PM