



Thomas Corey

December 24, 1944 - June 6, 2022

Thomas Corey age 77, of Jupiter, Florida went home to the Lord on Monday, June 6, 2022. He was born December 24, 1944 in Detroit, MI, the second of twelve children to Patrick and Margaret Corey. Tom was drafted into the Army on December 7, 1966 as a squad leader with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. While in combat in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive, he was shot in the neck, permanently damaging his spinal cord. Beating all odds of survival, Tom returned to Michigan to rehabilitate to live as a quadriplegic. For his heroic service, Tom was decorated with a Bronze Star Medal with V device for Valor, two Purple Hearts, an Air Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Valorous Unit Citation, a Republic Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and a Combat Infantry Badge.

In 1972, Tom moved to Palm Beach County, Florida, most recently living in Jupiter for the past sixteen years. During his transition to Florida he became resolute in fighting for Veteran's issues. In the mid-1970s, Tom became active in Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and in 1980 joined Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). He was the founding president of VVA Palm Beach County Chapter 25, renamed the Thomas H. Corey Chapter at its 10 year anniversary. In 1985, Tom was elected to VVA's National Board of Directors and two years later elected as VVA's national secretary, and subsequently re-elected four times. In 1997, he was elected National Vice President and in 2001 became the National President of VVA, which he held until 2005.

To help heal the wounds of war, Tom made sixteen visits back to Vietnam, representing VVAs Veterans Initiative Task Force. It focused on locating POW/MIAs and Agent Orange issues with successful results. He was ultimately nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. Tom was also a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Association, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1st Air Calvary Association, and the National Association of Uniformed Services. He served as an Ombudsman/Program Specialist from the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System to continue his mission to serve as an advocate for all Veterans.

Tom is pre-deceased by his parents, Patrick and Margaret, his first wife Mary Kern and second wife, Sharon Loree. He is survived by his son, Brian Corey (Nathan White), of Port St Lucie, FL and daughter, Trang Corey, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL; siblings, Rick (Karen) Corey of Annapolis, MD, Carol Maxwell of Hazel Park, MI, Diane (Dan) Pearsall of Sterling Heights, MI, Linda (Jerry) Clark of New Boston, MI, Jim Corey (Cathy Locke Ferraro) of Adrain, MI, Kathy Phillips (Alan Wood) of Brighton, MI, Jill Corey Hennick of Tucker, GA, Michelle (Mike) Panyard of Pleasant Ridge, MI, and Maureen Corey Smith of Wolverine Lake, MI; his long time dedicated caregiver and loving friend, Janet Alheit-Crane and her husband, Doug and daughter, Sierra, of Jupiter FL; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

A visitation will be held from 5pm-7pm, Tuesday June 21st at Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, 250 Center Street, Jupiter, FL. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10am Wednesday June 22nd at St Peter's Catholic Church, 1701 Indian Creek Pkwy, Jupiter FL. Burial will follow at South Florida VA National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL.

A Celebration of Life will follow from 1:30pm to 4:30 pm at the Wellington

Community Center, 12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, FL, 33134. For those unable to attend please join us by Zoom by following the instructions below:

Zoom link for 6-22-22 Celebration of Life

Topic: Tom Corey's Celebration of Life

Time: Jun 22, 2022 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5570540137?pwd=dXpNcW1jUTBsN0d4emdjcjEwUVhpUT09>

Meeting ID: 557 054 0137

Passcode: Corey

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,5570540137# US (New York)

+13017158592,,5570540137# US (Washington DC)

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to VVA Thomas H. Corey Chapter 25, 6436 Chasewood Drive, Unit E, Jupiter, FL 33458 in loving memory of Thomas Corey.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home
250 Center Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 744-2030
<https://www.taylorandmodeenflorida.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Catholic Church
1701 Indian Creek Parkway
Jupiter, FL 33458

Celebration of Life

JUN 22. 1:30 PM - 4:40 PM (ET)

Wellington Community Center
12150 Forest Hill Blvd.
Wellington, FL 33134

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Corey*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Bonnie MH lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



Bonnie MH - August 10, 2022 at 01:25 PM

“By the grace of God, I started working with Tom in 1992, and had the honor and privilege to be his private nurse and close friend for three decades. We bonded on our first trip and became instant friends. Tom has such a huge impact on me that my whole life changed as I learned about the issues facing Vietnam Veterans. His passion became my passion and soon my world revolved around Vietnam and helping those affected by the war.



Tom was a natural born leader and diplomat with great passion and energy to improve the lives of veterans, their families and those still serving. The wheelchair which was once an obstacle for him to overcome became an asset to break down barriers and move mountains. He had lost so much from his injury, but God blessed him with charisma that drew people to him to help along the way. Tom commanded respect whenever he rolled into a room yet remained humble every step of the way.

I was blessed to be part of his journey every day for thirty years to experience all that he did and witness it up close and personal. Whether it was at the Wall and Arlington on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice; or on the Hill to meet with members of Congress and for Congressional testimony to fight for veteran's benefits; or on one of our sixteen trips to Vietnam with the Veteran's Initiative to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our missing in action and the effects of Agent Orange, Tom was at the forefront of every issue and always ready for the next challenge ahead. Despite his catastrophic injuries, he remained tenacious and got up every morning to serve veterans and their families. It wasn't always easy, but Tom remained steadfast in his mission. We made many good friends along the way and were blessed by the comradery of the groups we worked with, including VVA, PVA, Sons and Daughters, and many more.

It was an honor to call Tom my dear friend. He was my hero, and I will miss him more than words can say. Thank you, Tom, for all the memories and the incredible journey we shared.

May you rest in peace.

*Love always,
Janet*

Matthew 25:21 - Well done, good and faithful servant!

Janet Alheit - July 04, 2022 at 12:48 PM

GM

“ *I didn't know Tom, but with so many comment below I am in awe of his life and dedication to our Veterans. Rest in peace my Vietnam brother.*

George Mason

George Mason - June 25, 2022 at 07:34 AM

AJ

“ *Condolences to Thomas's family.*

Alfonzo Ramirez Jr - June 24, 2022 at 09:38 PM

TH

“ *Tom Hohmann lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



Tom Hohmann - June 24, 2022 at 09:20 PM

TH

I thought I'd leave a red candle here for Tom, to signify all the blood lost in Vietnam. See you on the other side, Tom

Tom Hohmann - June 24, 2022 at 09:21 PM

TC

“ *Every now and then I start thinking that I have done a lot for veterans. Hosting luncheons, donations to food pantries, and our Chapter providing adaptive sports equipment to veterans. Before I ever “pat myself on the back” again I will think of Tom and realize there is always more I can do.*

Welcome home brother

Tom Carroll

Vietnam - Dec 1969 - Jan 1971

tom carroll - June 24, 2022 at 05:53 PM

BM

“ *For anyone who felt they had a tiring day or wanted to give up on a Cause, watching or seeing Tom at VVA events reminded all of us that we could do more. Bob Mulholland 101st Airborne, Vietnam (1967-68).*

Bob Mulholland - June 24, 2022 at 03:40 PM

TC

“ *Tina Cha lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



Tina Cha - June 23, 2022 at 08:16 PM

JT

“ *Jerry Troyer lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



Jerry Troyer - June 22, 2022 at 01:38 PM

KD

“ *Ken Dempsey lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



ken dempsey - June 22, 2022 at 10:56 AM

GS

“ *I had the honor of working with Tom for over 20 years during my tenure at the WPBVA. His presence and passionate dedication to his fellow veterans was a constant gift to the workplace and an inspiration to all. Rest in peace my friend after a life very well lived*
Greg Skomra
VAWPB retired

greg skomra - June 21, 2022 at 02:57 PM

NW

“ *Norman B. Williams lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



Norman B. Williams - June 21, 2022 at 11:20 AM

NR

“ I’ve known Tom since 1977 😊 I met him while in nursing school and since then became friends forever. He was The Godfather to our kids Brenda and Brett Rygwalski. Tom’s sense of humor never ceased to amaze me as he was funny as heck, kind, loving, and so very caring. I became best friends with his wife Sharon Corey and we have shared so many fun memories over the years. I love you Tom and will see you in heaven one day, God Bless you for everything you’ve done for us and others!

Nancy Rygwalski - June 21, 2022 at 08:20 AM

PR

“ I met Tom when I transferred to West Palm Beach in 1993 to help open the new hospital. He was deeply involved in seeing the new hospital open to serve the growing Veteran population of Palm Beach and surrounding counties. I was Chief of Food and Nutrition at the time and Tom helped us with meal planning and service ware selection for the new hospital. His feedback was invaluable to us. As I progressed in my career through the years Tom and I remained good friends and we worked closely together after I became the Associate Director in West Palm Beach and thereafter for the 6 years I served as Director of the Miami VAHCS. He was an inspiration who led his life with integrity and honor fully dedicated to issues of concern for Veterans. He served in many leadership roles and will be remembered for his Veterans advocacy and commitment. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have worked with him in service to Veterans. My wife Karen and I send our deepest condolences to Brian and family. I share a picture of Tom and I and Jerry Klein at a Miami VA event. Rest in peace my friend and we will meet again someday.

*Paul M. Russo,
Director/CEO
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System*



Paul Russo - June 20, 2022 at 01:56 PM

GS

“ Always looked forward to seeing Tom he was a loyal true friend. Met him at VVA National Conventions He was uplifting I appreciate him very much

Gene A Dasher, Sr - June 18, 2022 at 11:30 PM

JR

“ *As then President of Brooklyn Chapter 72 Vietnam Veterans of America in '92, I met Tom at our Leadership Convention in Alexandria, Va. I learned a lot from Tom at these meetings because of his dedication to Vietnam Veterans for many years. My Sincere Condolences to the Corey Family and Friends.*
John Rinaldi, Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club '72-'73

John Rinaldi - June 18, 2022 at 10:50 PM



“ *At met Tom while working at the VA. He was always smiling and making jokes. Loved his character ... he knew how to be sensible and firm ! He would be missed*

Stephanie Stef - June 17, 2022 at 10:25 AM

DS

“ *I am a friend of the family . I had met Tom a few times .He was such a Great guy . May you Rest In Peace . Debbie sirianni*

Deborah Sirianni - June 13, 2022 at 07:53 AM

TH

“ *I wish I had known Tom better. My interactions with him at VVA National conventions were very memorable. His contributions to VVA and veterans in general are too many to think of.*

See you on the other side, Tom.

Tom Hohmann - June 12, 2022 at 03:56 PM

MS

“ *Margie Schmidt sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Corey*



Margie Schmidt - June 12, 2022 at 12:12 PM

BH

“ *Ben Humphries lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



Ben Humphries - June 11, 2022 at 08:28 PM

CS

“ *Tom Corey's legacy of commitment, dedication and integrity to all veterans and their families, VA WPB & Miami veterans, friends and staff and on a national VA level was remarkable. To Brian and family, my deepest sympathy on the loss of your father. May your fondest memories assist you as you adjust to his absence. Tom will always be with you. May God Bless You as you celebrate Tom's life and he is honored at his final resting place at South Florida National Cemetery. Charleen R Szabo, Retired VAWPB*

charleen r szabo - June 11, 2022 at 12:31 PM

JU

“ June lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey



June - June 11, 2022 at 12:13 PM

RP

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Rod Phillips - June 11, 2022 at 06:44 AM

JU

“ I was introduced to Tom by Ed Seiler, the former Director of the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. We clicked- and began a working relationship. He presented at New Employee Orientation (NEO) and we also worked together on projects such as Treating Veterans w/CARE.

He was kind to me in an unkind working environment. He was an absolute star! He authentically cared about Veterans. It was all about the Veteran with Tom. He had a subtle sense of humor that gave me solace.

I am so -so saddened by his passing. I pray the Corey family find solace in knowing he was loved beyond the circle of those mentioned in the obituary.

*Written in Sadness but w/Love
June HC*

June - June 10, 2022 at 11:44 PM

RA

“ Tom was a friend. I first met him in 1982 when I joined VVA Chapter 25.

Tom was a good man, and he will be missed by many.

Roger L Allen - June 10, 2022 at 09:58 PM

AD

“ Honor to know and with this HERO, Deepest condolences to your family, especially Brian, who I also have the pleasure to work with.
May you Rest in Peace



Angela Drago - June 10, 2022 at 07:33 PM

FI

“ *Francisco Muniz III lit a candle in memory of Thomas Corey*



Francisco Muniz III - June 10, 2022 at 10:47 AM

JC

“ *Tom was a true example of selflessness and compassion that we should all be striving for. I was lucky enough to first meet Tom 10 years ago and it has been an honor and privilege to walk amongst the tallest of giants like him. He made the world a better place for people like me and I will always be grateful.*

Jon Calvert - June 10, 2022 at 09:25 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home - June 09, 2022 at 12:02 PM

KH

My sincerest condolences to Tom's family- Tom had a gentle spirit- a strong advocate for Disabled Veterans and a wonderful example of service before self. It was an honor to know you and your presence will be missed here at WPB VA. Rest in Peace and in the Presence of God. Chaplain Kim House

Kim House - June 10, 2022 at 08:42 AM

KG

I know Tom through my dear friend Diane Pearsall. She told me many of the things he has accomplished in his life and the shining light he was to all who knew him. Rest In Peace brave Warrior

Kathy Galante - June 10, 2022 at 12:01 PM

PP

Love You Amigo

pPedr - June 10, 2022 at 09:56 PM

BH

Tom was an inspiration to all. His unselfish dedication to veterans and their families was inspirational and will be a hard act to d=follow. I met Tom in 81 and he inspired me to get involved with VVA. Up to that point I was like most of us, not interested in any group. I had the honor to work with Tom on different projects over the years and always was amazed at his dedication to helping others. I will miss his instigating ways he would liven up any discussion or gathering. Rest In Peace my Brother

Ben Humphries - June 11, 2022 at 08:24 PM

VR

To the Corey Family my Deepest regrets, I met Tom some years back, he amazed me with his dedication to our VVA and All Veterans. We all will miss his wisdom, his smile his friendship. God Bless. Vinnie Rega VVAFSC and Chapter 1003

Vincent Rega - June 13, 2022 at 12:09 PM



Tom, sir you fought many fights in your day, you were brave and courageous, we salute you for your bravery and giving it all. RIP

Anthony Standifer - June 13, 2022 at 02:38 PM

GB

Tom was a great person that was about helping his follow Veterans at all cost. He will truly be missed. R.I.P. my brother. Slow hand salute to you !!!

Gene W. Braxton - June 15, 2022 at 04:20 PM

JT

I met Tom when I got involved with VVA and had the honor to accompany him on the 13th trip to Vietnam of the Veterans Initiative Program in December 1998. There was no one who worked harder or represented American Veterans better than Tom. His tireless energy amazed me and his devotion to the cause seemed to have an effect on those we met with. His determination opened doors to us that were not open before. One only had to look at Tom and how he tackled adversity to know that on your worst day that it was not as bad as it could be. You will forever be in my thoughts and working with you inspired me to always do a little more. Rest in Peace my friend, you have surely earned it

Jack Thomas

Jack Thomas - June 18, 2022 at 10:13 PM

TC

Although, I did know Tom personally, have heard much about him and the amazing things he did for Veterans 'Above and Beyond' the call. I served in C Co., 1st-12th in the time phase just before his time in country. Salute to Tom for carrying on the 'Charging Chargers' Tradition and Condolences/Prayers for the Cory Family.

Thomas Crabtree - September 19, 2023 at 05:50 PM