



Thomas Van Brock

December 22, 1946 - April 9, 2020

Born in Fort Wayne, IN, December 22, 1946, Thomas Van Brock was the son of Robert E. Brock and Patricia A. Green. We all knew him well as Thom, Christmas Tree farmer of Roan Mountain, TN; Owner of Brock and Sons Landscaping in Linville, NC; and Siesta Exotica nurseryman from Sarasota, FL. He passed on April 9, 2020, at the age of 73. Father to surviving children Robert James Alva Brock and Veronica Toys Brock, he assumed roles of Veterinarian assistant, school teacher, and Euchre player. Struggling health-wise for the past few years, take solace that he is now finally able to rest in peace.

In addition to Veronica & son-in-law Damon Steele of Cosby, TN, as well as Robert, and partner, Lynsey Powell, of Kingsport, TN, and his granddaughters Sydnie, Raygen, and Evelyn, Thom Brock is also survived by his sister, Dee, of Spruce Pine, NC, and his brother, Mike, of Nokomis, FL. Thom has gone to meet his maker along with his parents and the mother of his children, Jo Brock of Roan Mountain.

As much of Thom's life was devoted to landscaping, any consideration for flowers would be most appreciated in the form of live plants, rather than cut arrangements. For family gifting, evergreen trees, such as Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) or Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) are ideal. To honor Thom at your home, please learn about, and plant Christmas trees best suited for

your hardiness zone. If you would like suggestions for donation, we offer the following: Plant charities (Wild Ones: Native Plants - Natural Landscapes, or your local Agricultural Extension / USDA office); Pet charities (Humane Society, ASPCA, North Shore Animal League, or your local animal sanctuary). We feel that he would want us all to consider him not bereft of life, rather as forever elevating the evergreens, and helping save every puppy. Thom often remarked, "I don't like dogs," but we always knew better.

The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date, at the Rhododendron Gardens. For remembrances online: gatheringus.com/memorial/thomas-van-brock/3040 . Manes Funeral Home, 363 East Main St., Newport, TN, is handling final arrangements and accepting donations for expenses. The family would like to express its deepest appreciation for all considerations, condolences, and concerns. As Thom enjoyed his movies and humor, it's timely to say he is "off the twig," and "I'd say you've had enough."

"After all, damn it, you owe it to him – and to us." ~ The Loved One (1965)

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Van Brock*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *I met Thom when we were both freshmen in college at USF/Bay Campus. He was likable, funny and quick witted. After my junior year at USF, I worked at his dad's nursery in Sarasota, FL named Siesta Exotica, and worked there off and on until 1973.*

Thom and his dad taught me a lot about landscaping, and I recall we worked pretty hard. They were both understanding about my goof-ups, and the family was always great to me. They fed me and, when Thom and I lived at the nursery, provided housing. They made me feel like a family member.

He was my best friend, and was so for 55 years. Peace to his spirit.

Michael Woodward (Woody)

Michael Woodward - May 04, 2020 at 05:17 PM



“ *knew tom since 1968.. before a lot.. neat guy was a big part of family-best to the family.. had not seen tom lately-but will always remember him--rip morgan*

rip - April 17, 2020 at 03:23 PM

LS

“ Thom and I were buddies in high school. He always made me laugh! We were even Senior Notables together. He was a talented, intelligent young man and I loved our friendship. I remember chatting with him often when he had something about Bonnie on his mind. They were a special couple, both so kind and sweet. We lost touch as many do, but I have the nicest memories. I am so very sorry for the family's loss. His passing is so sad for so many!

Lynda Lawler Smith

Lynda Lawler Smith - April 14, 2020 at 03:16 PM

BF

“ My family moved from Detroit to Sarasota at the start of 9th grade. Some friends took me to the church youth group and that's where I got to know Thom. He became my first long-term boyfriend! We were even King and Queen of the Jr High Prom! Thom and his family taught me alot about being a "Southerner". Thom introduced me to racing at Sebring, looking for lychee nuts at Palmer Ranch, and diving for live sand dollars in the Gulf. Upon entering high school we went our separate ways. We remained friends and were in many of the same activities..Choir, Key Club, and Student Government. I was impressed by his leadership abilities and would expect he ran a great business.

I still have my class yearbooks so I snapped a few of his school photos, which I will attach here.

Warm condolences to Thom's friends and family.

Bonnie Brethen Fenton, The Villages, FL

Bonnie Brethen Fenton - April 14, 2020 at 01:25 PM

DD

“ *R.I.P. Thom Van Brock, Riverview High 1965, we've got your six.*

Douglas Deweese - April 14, 2020 at 01:18 PM

TR

“ *So very sorry of hearing of Thom dying. I went to school with Thom and wish I had known Thom wasn't that far away. Thom was such a great person and I know he will be surely missed by all. He's planting those Christmas Trees in Heaven now. Prayers for his love ones*



Terrie Moore Reeve - April 13, 2020 at 08:12 PM