



## Thomas Harrison Holmes

February 2, 1950 - March 5, 2023

Thomas Harrison Holmes was born to Bertha Marsella (Banks) and Frederick Madison Holmes, Sr. on February 2, 1950, in Manassas, Virginia where he became a proud Virginian and spent his last days. He graduated from Manassas' Osbourn High School in 1968 where he was a Drum Major and the Virginia State Typing Champion. He served in the U.S. Navy for ten years, becoming one of the first Navy Intelligence Specialists, and served in an assignment in Malta. He then joined the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C., overseeing the security of the U.S. submarines, until his retirement in 2006. After battling lymphoma cancer for 12 years, Thomas came out of retirement on March 5, 2023 to work as one of God's Special Angels.

Thomas married Jean Marie Latimer Pyles in 1975. In 1990, the year of Jean's passing, she gave Thomas his beloved cat, Trouble Marie, for his fortieth birthday, and Trouble Marie kept him company for 17 years. Thomas met his husband Mario Rocha in 1998 and 13 years later they were finally allowed to be married in Washington, D.C. They built their first retirement home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and then moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida for four years of condo retirement living. They were on their way to Pismo Beach, California (Mario's home state) to build their new retirement home when they did not get past their holiday stop in Manassas.

Thomas loved entertaining, cooking up a storm to share with others, and traveling. He readily offered a helping hand, such as volunteering with the

Whitman Walker Clinic in its fight against AIDS and completing the Marine Corps Marathon to help raise funds. He also served as a DC Capital Pride volunteer and Chairperson.

Thomas is survived by his husband Mario Rocha, sisters Delores Brown (Kenneth) and Barbara Lepre, "Little Brother" Robert Caruano (Peter Sacoulas), stepson Alan Pyles (Kaye), granddaughter Jennifer Wright, great-grandson Hunter, and many close relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Frederick Holmes, Jr. (Gail).

Services will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036 on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, with viewing at 9 AM and Mass of Christian Burial at 10 AM. The mass will be live streamed (check back here for the link which will be posted later).

The mass will be live streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/3DEWdJEppL4?feature=share>

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Matthew's Cathedral  
1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW  
Washington,, DC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Funeral Service for Thomas Harrison Holmes in memory of Thomas Harrison Holmes*



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**Pierce Funeral Home** - March 11, 2023 at 11:48 AM

GR

*My heart aches to hear this news. What a great loss to the world. He will be missed by so many. I know words can't take away the hurt you're feeling, but I want you to know how much I care. Sending you love and strength in this time of loss.*

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**Gina Riemer** - March 12, 2023 at 12:42 PM

MM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss Mario, Tom Was truly one of a kind. It was my pleasure to serve alongside Tom for so many years and even more so to see you and he build your beautiful home that it was our pleasure to visit in Rehoboth, where we first met. From the tree in the driveway to every beautiful bedroom, it was unique and simply gorgeous. Tom will always be a friend I remember and our work together among my fondest memories at ONI.*

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**Michael Myers** - March 21, 2023 at 03:41 AM

BS

“ So sorry to hear of Tommie’s passing. He and I were friends in high school, having many laughs together. Comfort and peace to his family and friends.  
*Betty Flores Street*

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**Betty Street** - March 20, 2023 at 04:16 PM

CJ

“ My heart is heavy for you Mario. Tom was such a sweet and wonderful man, He was taken too soon. May Tom Rest In Peace. 🕊️ Mario you and your and Tom families are in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏 *Claire Johnson*



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**Claire Johnson** - March 14, 2023 at 10:25 PM

RC

“ Peter and I are heartbroken over the loss of Tom. He meant so much to us and was always a big part of our lives. Can’t imagine a world without him, and we’ll miss him terribly. Our condolences to Mario, Barbara Jean and Tom’s whole family.



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**Rob Caruano** - March 12, 2023 at 07:16 PM

CS

“ We will miss Tom! He was so generous and thoughtful, never missing a holiday or birthday (right up to the end - Ava had a birthday card waiting for her on March 9!). His quick wit and sarcastic humor always had us laughing. Wishing peace for both Tom and Mario. With love, Caroline, Bill, Ruby, and Ava

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**Caroline Stem** - March 12, 2023 at 11:01 AM

TC

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Tommie we graduated the same year from Osbourn high school may he rest in peace always so pleasant.  
Toni jordan chapman

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**Toni jordan chapman** - March 12, 2023 at 06:21 AM

LG

“ There are no words to express how sad and heartbroken we are for Mario, Barb and families. It was a privilege and honor for Tommy to have always called me "his sister from another mother" these many years. May all the wonderful memories be of comfort to his beautiful family. Gary and I will cherish ours forever. Heartfelt sympathy to his family and to all the many that had the pleasure to have Tom in your life. Godspeed, our friend.

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**Lenny and Gary** - March 11, 2023 at 04:44 PM

JH

“ Tom and I work together many years and he became my supervisor he was a wonderful guy and he will truly be missed love traveling with him and we saw so many different things

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**Joy Hansen** - March 11, 2023 at 07:48 AM

AG

“ Tom and I worked together for years. He was always smiling while working hard. Never a dull moment with Tom. May you rest in peace. You will always be in my heart. God has definitely gained an angel.

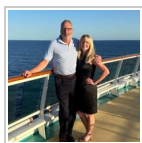
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**Anne Groves** - March 10, 2023 at 03:09 PM

PJ

“ Patti Johnston lit a candle in memory of Thomas Harrison Holmes



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**Patti Johnston** - March 09, 2023 at 10:47 PM



“ We will miss Tommy and his free spirited heart. He had so much love to give and could light up any room with his infectious smile. He loved being surrounded by friends and family and never met a stranger. Rest in peace...💕🕊️



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**Keriann Moore** - March 09, 2023 at 08:13 PM

DN

Sorry for your loss. May God give you all comfort during this difficult time in your life.

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**Donna Neuerburg** - March 10, 2023 at 11:02 AM

MI

“ We will miss Tom for his kindness, his generosity of heart, his love for kids and Christmas and for togetherness! We love you Mario and are heavy hearted for you, his family, and many friends!  
With fondest memories,  
The Blair/Chipmans

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**Michele** - March 09, 2023 at 05:20 PM

DL

“ Feeling such sadness losing Tom, and grateful for so many wonderful memories. Lee & I are at a loss, and will miss Tom’s humor, kindness, and everything else that is amazing and special about Tom. Our love & sincerest condolences to Mario, Tom & Mario’s families, and friends.



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**Doug & Lee** - March 09, 2023 at 01:42 PM

JS

So very sorry about Tom aka Tommy. He was a good friend in High School 🏫. Judy Whiting Swoope class of 68

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**Judy Karen Swoope** - March 09, 2023 at 02:59 PM

RM

Such sad news. Mario and all of Tom's family - my thoughts and prayer are with you.

Rose Murray  
Rehoboth Art League

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**Rose Murray** - March 09, 2023 at 04:06 PM

WC

*Greg and I are sorry to hear this news. Tom and Mario were wonderful neighbors and friends of ours in Rehoboth Beach. I fondly remember Tom comfortably seated inside while Mario spent hours tending to their gorgeous garden. We will miss Tom's wit and passion for the town they called home for part of their lives. Sending our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Wesley Combs** - March 09, 2023 at 10:51 PM

BM

“ 1 file added to the album *Fun Photos with Tom*



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**Barb McGrath** - March 08, 2023 at 08:56 PM

BS

“ *We send our condolences to Mario, Barbara Jean and all of Tom's family. Our hearts are broken. Like everyone, we will miss Tom especially our shopping trips and dinners. We always loved his mid-year Thanksgiving dinners. RIP our dear friend. Barb & Sandee*

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**Barb & Sandee** - March 08, 2023 at 08:17 PM