



## Thomas Vander Woude

April 24, 1942 - September 8, 2008

Thomas Steve Vander Woude passed away September 8, 2008.

He was born April 24, 1942 in Sioux Falls, S.D. He was the son of William and Gwen Vander Woude, his sisters and brothers are Jim and Bill Vander Woude and Mary (Vander Woude) Oehlke.

On December 26, 1964 he married Mary Ellen Earley. Mr. Vander Woude was a dedicated father and husband. Thomas and Mary Ellen raised seven sons, Tom, Steve, Dan, Bob, Chris, Pat and Joseph.

He dedicated 17 years of service to his country as a pilot in the United States Navy and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired in 2002 after twenty-six years as a commercial airline pilot. He coached all his sons in basketball of various levels, including elementary, high school, and college. From 2002 to 2007, he worked as Athletic Director/Coach at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. He was a dedicated supporter/coach of Seton High School. A man of God imbued with his Catholic Faith, He served with his wife Mary Ellen as sacristans of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in Gainesville, from 2001 to the present.

Thomas was a loving and selfless husband, father and grandfather, he is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen, his seven sons and five daughters-in-law,

Father Thomas P. Vander Woude, Steven and Erin Vander Woude, Dan and Maryan Vander Woude, Bob and Melissa Vander Woude, Chris and Katy Vander Woude, Pat and Jill Vander Woude, and Joseph Vander Woude, and twenty-four grand-children, Mary Kate, Tim, Bridget, Maggie, Tommy, Annie, Jack, Nick, Lilly, Johanna, Monica, Dominic, Daniel, Maria, Elena, Sean, Brendan, Joseph, Joshua, John Paul, Bobby, Michael, Luke and Philip.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, September 14, 2008 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 10 p.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, Va. where mass will be celebrated on Monday, September 15 at 10:30 a.m. Interment Quantico National Cemetery on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Vander Woude would graciously accept donations to help defray expenses due to Tom's death, medical bills, and general support for herself or for Joseph, and if these needs are met, the rest would be given to a Catholic charity in honor of Tom. These gifts should be made payable to "The Tom Vander Woude Memorial Trust", and are not tax-deductible. These gifts may be sent to: P.O. Box 98, Nokesville, VA 20181. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation in Tom's memory, we suggest that such be made payable to Holy Trinity parish, Seton High School, or Christendom College. These gifts may be sent to these organizations directly. Thank you for all of your help.

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Fr. Thomas Vander Woude,*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. So sorry for your loss. God bless you.*

*Mary G. Hardiman/Michael E. Conyngham and Grace  
St. Agnes Parish, Arlington, VA*

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**Conyngham Family** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

GE

“ *Dear Dan and Family-*

*We were very saddened when we read the paper this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Tom was such a good man- I will miss his visits and chats when he stopped by East To West.*

*Thinking of you! Kris*

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**Glenn & Kristina Evans** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

FN

“ *What an act of perfect love! Your family has always been an example of the ideal. We love you so much and you are all in our prayers and hearts.*

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**Frank and Theresa Nava** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

JC

“ Dear Dan and family,  
We are saddened to hear of the tragedy that has hit your family. We are praying that God will give you each of you the strength that you need to make it through this time.

Lord Bless,  
Jason and Allison Combs, SVCA

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

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Jason and Allison Combs - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

PW

“ Dear Aunt Mary Ellen, boys, and families, I sent an email to Fr. Tom as I had his email address, but I also wanted to extend my deepest sympathies to all of you. I was very shocked and sad when I heard about my Uncle Tom's death. He was always a very gentle, kind, and loving man who I looked up to as he had a very strong faith filled life. He was always there to help and give support. The love you shared as a family was always very evident each time we saw you or heard from you. I'm so glad I was able to see him and many of you in January at Grandma Gwen's funeral. I have been keeping Uncle Tom, Joseph, and all of you in my thoughts and prayers. Take care & God Bless. Todd, Patty, Jordan, and Kaitlin Altman

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Patty (Vander Woude)Altman - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

DP

“ *To the Vander Woude family:*

*We wish you our sincere condolences for your loss. My brother, Jim Grumblatt, has spoken often of your family to us. We will have a Mass offered for your father's soul. May he rest in peace. We will also keep Joseph in our prayers, as well as the rest of you for fortitude in this time of sadness.*

*God bless,*

*Donna and Dan Prather and family*

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**Donna Prather** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

TF

“ *Dearest Vander Woude, What an awesome gift you had in Tom. We are privileged to have known him and will honor his memory. "He only half dies, who leaves an image of himself in his sons." - Carlo Goldoni, 18th century Italian playwright*

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**The Tate Family** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

MW

“ *My uncle Tom was a great inspiration; to do what is right and always help others. I will miss him a lot and will pray for his family and friends in Virginia; they were certainly blessed to be able to live their lives alongside his.*

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**Michael J. Vander Woude** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

AL

“ When asked to list the greatest commandments for His disciples, Jesus answered: "Love God above all, and love your neighbor as yourself..."

*He also advised His disciples that the way to ensure salvation was "for one man to lay down his life for his fellow man."*

*'Saint Tom Vander Woude, as we reflect on your love for your son/your fellow man, we ask you to assist your friends and family still in this 'valley of tears' to come to terms with losing you. Please comfort those who are suffering, have suffered and will suffer from the loss of you in their lives physically; we ask you to be with us all spiritually, especially your wife, children and grandchildren, in Jesus' name. Amen*

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**Anne McCarron Liptak** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

AD

“ Please accept my condolences to the entire family. Tom and I flew together for many years and it is a shock to hear of his death and injury to Joseph.

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**Alan DeSa** - March 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM