



Thomas J. White

OCT 28, 1963 - DEC 12, 2024



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WEIGEL Funeral Home

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Thomas J. White

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Thomas J. White, age 61 of Batesville, Indiana, passed away peacefully Thursday, December 12, 2024, at home with family by his side. Born October 28, 1963, in New Albany, IN, he is the son of T.J. and Lavon (nee: Crowley) White. Tom married Karen “Kate” (nee: Wilmer) White on December 11, 1987, at St. Mary’s Church in Greensburg. He was a member of St. Louis Catholic Church.

Tom was one of a kind. He was fun loving and everyone was easily drawn to him. Family gatherings were always much more fun with him on hand. He knew how to spice up a story to draw laughter. His loads of knowledge on various topics never ceased to amaze his family. For that, he was teased that he graduated from KIAU... “Know It All University”.

Tom loved his three kids dearly and was very proud of them. He was always there for them and attended all ballgames and events with which they were involved. Tom was “Pappy” to his thirteen beautiful grandchildren (with another soon to be born). He was crazy about them, and they were he.

Tom was a very dedicated and successful Kentucky Fried Chicken franchisee for more than 25 years. His parents opened their first franchise with the helpful influence of Colonel Harland Sanders. Tom celebrated his family’s fifty years of service at his retirement in June 2022. At Tom’s delight, his young grandkids always mistook the Colonel’s picture as he, their Pappy. Tom loved his employees and was good to them. He found joy in sharing life tips to help them. They were his second family.

Tom loved his family and took care of them well. Scheduling car maintenance, sneaking carwashes and gas fills or buying dinner for everyone gave him joy. He kept everything running smoothly and loved doing random kind acts for them.

He loved grilling on a Sunday afternoon. One of his family’s favorites was his BBQ chicken. He claimed each batch was better than the one before.



Obituary

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Tom loved riding his Harley Davidson motorcycles and rode many a mile with Kate or with his friends. He never left a “bug splat” or “speck of dirt” stay too long after a ride. His family has witnessed many a washings and use of his leaf blower afterward to dry his shiny ride with ease. After retirement, Tom found joy in cutting grass for his mother-in-law. Kate always teased her mother that she loved seeing him more than her. Motorcycle trips with his buddies that would start with breakfast on Sunday mornings were one of his favorites. Soon to be named by his wife, “The Old Farts Club”. He volunteered for the local food pantry by picking up and delivering donations until he was no longer physically able.

Tom was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith this year at St. Louis Church where his children were also baptized and confirmed.

Tom was a treasure. We are better for having loved him and having been loved by him. He will be greatly missed!

He is survived by his wife Kate White of Batesville; son Thom Jr. (Megan) White of Borden, IN; daughters Lindsey (Kris) Hortemiller of Westfield, IN and Molly (Aaron) Stirn of Batesville; grandchildren Eva, JJ, Titus, Ace, Robert, Felicity, Oliver, Eden, Layken, Bianca, Aris, Wrenley, and Millie; sisters Janey Lewis of Batesville; Geri Schweinhart of New Albany, Indiana; brother-in-law Rick Lewis of Batesville, as well as several nieces and nephews. Tom was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation is Friday, December 20, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. at the funeral home. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place Friday, December 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Louis Catholic Church. The burial will immediately follow at the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Louis School, St. Louis Church, St. Louis Restoration Fund, Margaret Mary Hospice, or a Pro-Life Cause of donor’s choice.



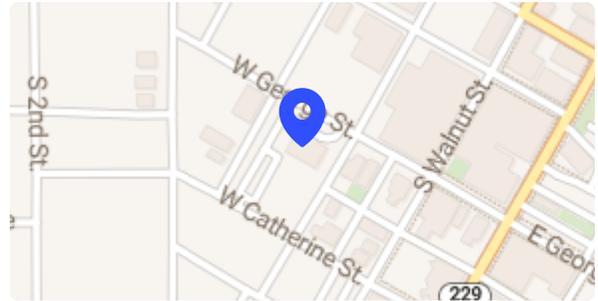
Events

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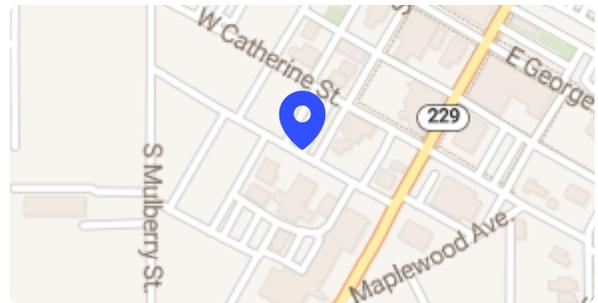
Visitation

-  **Friday**, December 20, 2024
-  9:00 AM - 11:45 AM ET
-  **Weigel Funeral Home**
151 W. George St., Batesville IN 47006



Mass of Christian Burial

-  **Friday**, December 20, 2024
-  12:00 PM ET
-  **St. Louis Church**
13 St. Louis Place, Batesville IN 47006





Tribute Wall

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TW

Tina Marie French Wautelet posted:

Dear Molly and family, JJ,I was so sorry to hear about your Dad! I am keeping all of you in my prayers! May you, your Mom and JJ all feel God's loving embrace and comfort ❤️ Aunt Tina

December 30 at 5:23 PM

KC

Keith Donald Chambers posted:

My condolences and prayers to Tom's Family! Tom will be missed! -Keith Chambers

December 23 at 9:09 PM

JS

John Schwering posted:

I've known Tom since high school. Loud bike, loud stereo, loud laugh, life of the party! Over the last several years I've gotten to know him a little better. I got to see him as a devoted husband and a very proud father and grandfather! We have traded stories about our grown children and how awesome our grandchildren are! I know I'm sure glad I got to know that Tom too before he left us so early! I know I'll sure miss him on my annual visit to the house and chatting with him occasionally at midtown diner some Sunday mornings. The decibel level was always a little higher and there was always more laughter after Tom showed up! My deepest sympathy to the family! He was one of a kind

December 20 at 1:17 PM



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RB

Russell Biggerstaff sent a virtual gift in honor of Thomas.



I worked for KFC corporation and Tom was one of the franchise operators that I supported as his business coach, as we were called. I'll never forget get my first meeting with Tom as we met at a table in his KFC dining room. He barely said a word and looked at me like he wanted to strangle me, just for being a "KFC Corporate person". In other words, Tom was one tough customer! I'd like to think that I was different from most corporate folks he met in the past that left him with what felt like anger, distaste & resentment, but during that initial meeting I could feel it all through his eyes & expression. I worked with Tom for about 5 or 6 years, and somewhere along the way I think he believed I was different too, and he gave me a chance to have a voice and to be part of his conversation & personal family business. While working with Tom, I found a very caring guy, a man who cared about his family & his KFC family team. He often called me when he needed help with a distributor or inspection, and I appreciated his trust in me. In the end of our time working together, I knew he was planning to exit the KFC business, and I suspected I'd be leaving as well. Like I started with, I'll always remember Tom for that initial meeting, but I'll cherish his kindness & humor forever (When he would get on a roll, I'd die laughing and tell him that he reminded me of Larry the Canle Guy...He could be that funny). I'm grateful for knowing Tom I'm happy that he had the opportunity to spend a little time with his family & friends before departing. I send my thoughts & prayers to his loved ones. God Bless!Russ

December 15 at 8:59 AM

BB

Bruce Bagshaw posted:

I met Tom at an early age in Henryville Indiana. Tom's parents encouraged my parents to become KFC franchisees. To say Tom was a lot of fun would be an understatement! He lived life to the fullest and was very proud of his Family and Grandchildren. He will be truly missed by all! Hugs and Prayers to the Family. Bruce and Laura Bagshaw and Family

December 19 at 4:01 AM

CB

Christina L Bowman posted:

I worked with Tom for 6 years. He was the greatest boss a person can ever have. More than a boss he was such a father figure for so many of us at kfc. There will never be anyone that could be a better person. I send your family much love and healing. You will be so dearly missed

December 17 at 8:36 PM



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Steve & Kim Steigerwald posted:

RIP Tom. Loved being around this guy! One of our favorite people we ever worked for. When we were busy, we worked hard for him. When it was time to relax a bit, we had a great time! One of kind for sure! We are grateful to have been hired and worked for Tom four years in college...and now we are celebrating our 31st wedding anniversary because Tom and Kate took a chance on us. Rest easy and blessings to family and friends. Steve & Kim Steigerwald

December 17 at 3:11 PM



Thom White shared 10 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

You only get one Dad in this life, and Jesus blessed me with a winner. Forever thankful for having my Dad. He taught me life lessons from an early age, and things I still revert to today for my own parenting and my work career. Dad, I will miss being able to text you every day, joke and laugh, and have someone to bounce ideas off of. Thank you for loving my kids and spoiling them sometimes (3 snow cones at hockey games are always a treat... 😊). They will miss their Pappy greatly. I can't wait to see you again beyond Heaven's gates!



December 15 at 8:59 AM



Heather shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I worked for Tom for 3 years leading up to his retirement. He was the reason a lot of people stayed working there, so when he retired, a lot of his workers left too. I think that shows a lot about the person he was. The Tom I knew was kind, generous, and he treated all of us like a father would. He is the best boss I will ever have. Rest easy, Tom, you will be missed.



December 16 at 9:37 AM



Michele Disney posted:

Tom quickly became very special to my daughter, Aubrey Denny, one of his hospice nurses. She spoke very fondly of her visits and will always miss him greatly.

December 15 at 10:02 AM



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Bart Metz shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I've known Tom ever since he and his family moved to Greensburg. He and my brother Bill were great friends. I have also gone on many of his cross country motorcycle adventures with him always making sure we had a great ride and a fun time. Many Birthdays were celebrated along the way. Our rides will never be the same. RIP Tom and Rap that motor up there, for us.

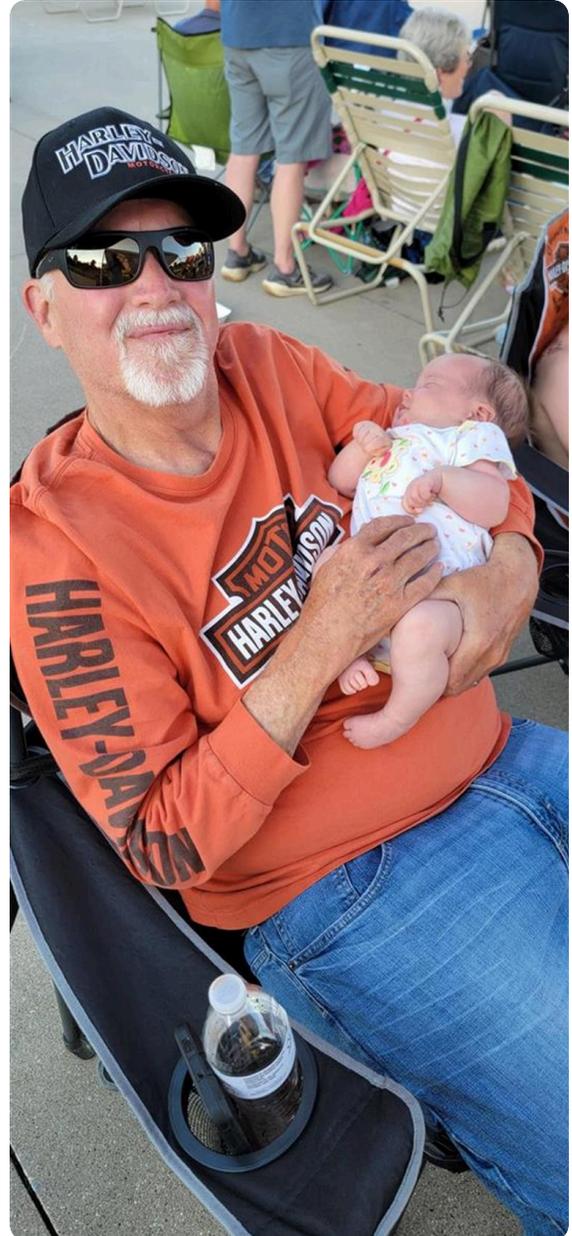


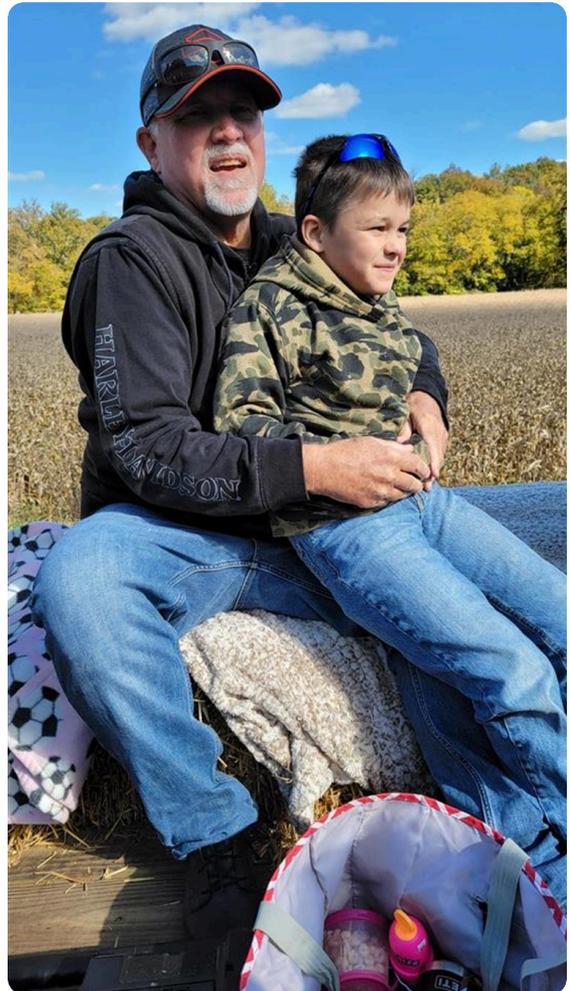
December 15 at 8:59 AM



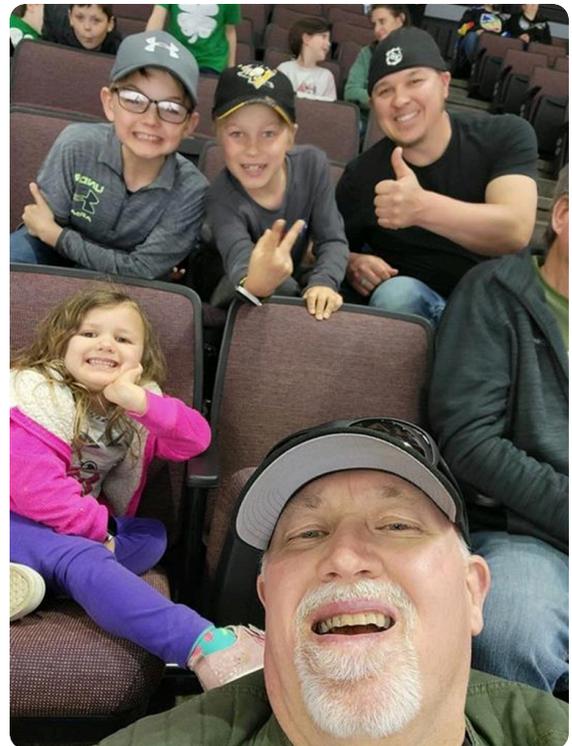
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December 17 at 10:11 AM











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December 16 at 9:37 AM





Bart Metz shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 15 at 8:59 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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